Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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ALFIE GETS SEVEN FIGURE PAYOUT

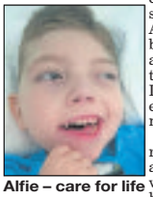
Report by Richard Guttridge

THE family of an eight-year-old Stourbridge boy left severely disabled after mistakes were made by midwives during his birth at Russells Hall Hospital have been awarded a seven-figure payout.

The sum will ensure Alfie Johnson is able to receive the specialist round-the-clock care, which he will need for the rest of his life.

Alfie's brain was starved of oxygen during labour after midwives at Russells Hall Hospital missed signs that the baby was in distress. He was born with severe brain damage resulting in cerebral palsy.

His parents Paul and Vickie, from Amblecote, who have gone on to campaign for children with disabilities, spoke of their relief that Alfie's future care has been secured. They were awarded the compensation at the High Court in London on Thursday. The exact figure received has not been disclosed.



Alfie – care for life

Mr Johnson said: "It's a relief to get to this point and it means Alfie's needs will be met for the rest of his life.

"We are grateful that (solicitors) JMW obtained an admission of negligence from the trust and we were able to agree a settlement out of court but all this was avoidable. Alfie was a healthy baby before Vickie went into hospital – that's something I think about a lot."

Apologised

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, admitted the failures in 2011 and apologised to the family.

Mr Johnson said: "He is a remarkable little boy and we've pulled together as a family. I just want to say to other parents who are in the same situation not to give up hope. Bringing a case against a hospital is not an easy journey but there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Trust chief executive Paula Clark, said: "The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is pleased that the agreement reached between the parties has been approved by the court. The circumstances surrounding Alfie's birth on November 11, 2007 have been investigated extensively and a full admission of liability was made in August 2011. We would like to take the opportunity to reiterate that we are truly sorry and we are pleased a settlement has been reached which we hope will go some way to meeting Alfie's future needs."

Alfie's parents formed the Friends of Alfie Johnson charity in 2009, which supports children with disabilities.

MINI HEATWAVE BRINGS OUT CAR ENTHUSIASTS

Open top Mini owner Natasha Price, 27, at Himley Hall with her friend Jess Howard, 21, of Stourport and Wyre Forest Minis & Metros club

HUNDREDS of Minis sparkled in the sunshine during a celebration of the iconic British car at Himley Hall.

Collectors brought out their classic Minis along with the newer generation of the vehicle which for decades was made in Longbridge, Birmingham.

Cars were judged in 11 different categories, while for the first time ever a Generation One Mini – a newer model – was crowned best in the Premier Concours competition.

People came from all over the country to show off their Minis and a celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Generation One Mini also featured as part of the show, which brought hordes of motor enthusiasts to the mansion and its grounds near Dudley. The cars dated from 1959 to the present day.

David Hollis, of the British Mini Club, which has hosted the event at Himley Hall for 24 years, said: "It was the first time it has been held in stunning weather. Everybody was relaxed and having picnics – and the standard of cars was phenomenal."

ELECTION

No party at council in overall control

DUDLEY Council looks set to be run with no party in overall control after UKIP ruled out a formal coalition with either Labour or the Conservatives – and Labour ruled out working with UKIP.

Labour remains the biggest party on the council but was left without an overall majority after last week's dramatic elections, which saw some seats changing hands over the matter of a handful of votes.

It leaves UKIP's eight councillors in an influential position.

● Balance of power – see page 2

INDUSTRY

Seven bidders in talks over Tata Steel

TATA Steel is in talks with seven potential buyers interested in its UK operations, including its Black Country sites.

The company employs 11,000 people in the UK with around 750 at sites in Brierley Hill, Wednesfield, Walsall and Wednesbury.

On Monday the board of Tata Steel Europe said seven 'expressions of interest' for the whole of the UK business had been submitted and immediately taken forward to the next stage of the sale process.

COMMUNITY

Council cuts see bloom hopes droop

THE organisers of Stourbridge in Bloom have pulled out of the floral display contest this year because cuts mean Dudley Council's financial support being withdrawn, despite past success in the community event.

Alan Lunt, a strategic director at Dudley Council, said: "We need to look for new ways of delivering the 'In bloom' events in the light of reduced funding for services and will be looking to seek greater input from voluntary and business groups and the wider community. We will work with them in an advisory capacity to look at sourcing external funding."

● Plans wither – see page 8

INSIDE

THE MAYOR'S BIG NIGHT OUT

PAGE 4

CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
CLUBS	14
MEMORY LANE	20
THE FAST TICKET	23
PROPERTY	31
MOTORING	32
SPORT	39 & 40

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Sue Jones
Tel: 01384 399901
E-mail: sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01902 319627
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990

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Jamieson second stint as commissioner

David Jamieson, back as PCC

LABOUR'S David Jamieson has been elected to serve as the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner for a second term.

He was the first choice of 49.9 per cent of voters and finished ahead of Tory candidate Les Jones, voted for by 25.8 per cent.

Mr Jamieson, a former transport minister under Tony Blair, first took up the role in August 2014, following the death of former Wolverhampton councillor Bob Jones. Following his re-election he will remain in post until 2020.

He said: "I think that in 20 months in the role I have made a good start and made changes in a number of areas. The thing I want to continue with is recruiting.

"I have brought in 400 new officers of the 450 I promised – and I would have done all of them had the Government not cut the budget by a further 25 per cent.

Knives

"There has also been the Victims' Commission and things like the zombie knives campaign which have been a success."

Turnout at this year's PCC elections were up. Across the West Midlands 581,072 people – or 30.03 per cent of eligible voters – had their say. The turnout in the 2014 by-election had been just 10.38 per cent. There were, however, a large number of rejected ballot papers, totalling 28,346.

Counting took place in two stages after no one candidate secured more than 50 per cent of first preferences. Finishing third was UKIP's Pete Durnell with 17 per cent of first picks and fourth was Independent candidate Andy Flynn with 7.3 per cent.

UKIP councillors now hold balance of power

DUDLEY Council looks set to be run with no party in overall control after UKIP ruled out a formal coalition with either Labour or the Conservatives.

Labour remains the biggest party on the council but was left without an overall majority after last week's dramatic elections.

It meant either party could have gained a majority with the help of UKIP's eight councillors but group leader Paul Brothwood has now said there will be no official deal.

Labour's majority was chipped away in dramatic fashion as the party lost Wollaston and Stourbridge Town by just three votes after five recounts. Tory Alan Hopwood just pipped Chris Hale.

The Gornal seat was lost by Labour's Dave Branwood to Conservative David Stanley by just 27 votes. The Belle Vale seat also went the way of the Tories by just 13 votes as Laura Taylor gained the seat previously held by Donella Russell.

Strong

Despite being the smallest party, the outcome of the elections potentially leaves UKIP in a strong position holding the balance of power – they will be able to defeat Labour policies by voting with the Tories.

Councillor Brothwood said he would speaking with both Labour and Conservative group leaders Pete Lowe and Patrick Harley about the way forward.

But Labour has already said there would be no partnership with UKIP.

Councillor Brothwood said: "I am happy to meet with the other leaders and see what their positions are. I am sure there will be lots of discussions over the coming weeks. We hold the balance of power. We hold the balance of power."

Councillor Brothwood suggested Labour and the Tories might have to convince him why they should get UKIP's support on crucial votes but said there would be no 'behind closed doors or backroom deals'.

Councillor Serena Craigie and supporters celebrating her victory, retaining the Brierley Hill seat for Labour

"They can't force anything through without UKIP. It's early days but I think trust needs to build between the three leaders. We have made clear our agenda. It would be nice if all three parties could agree but it's very early days."

Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe said he was confident he would be able to continue running the council, despite not having an overall majority.

He said: "Our leadership of the council remains.The council was run with no overall control in the early 2000s and that is exactly the agreement we are looking towards."

Labour could gain a majority by taking one more seat, with the Mayor of Dudley holding the casting vote.

Mandate

Mr Lowe 'categorically' ruled out any deal with UKIP and said he was confident the Conservatives would do the same.

He said: "We have a clear mandate, we are just short of a majority. I want to sit down and have constructive discussions with sensible councillors in the interests of the people of Dudley."

The local elections across the Black Country were once again plagued by low turnouts.

Some Black Country ward turnouts dipped well below 20 per cent with many councillors claiming people are more interested in the upcoming European Union referendum.

The lowest overall turnout in the Black Country was Sandwell with 27 per cent and the highest was Dudley with 30.6 per cent.

Bats could delay the demise of Hippodrome

THE demolition of Dudley Hippodrome is being delayed by the possible presence of bats inside the building.

Dudley Council bosses say a bat survey will need to be carried out before any work to knock down the Hippodrome could begin.

It comes as the town's regeneration boss warned that the current rescue plan to save the Castle Hill former theatre was likely to be the last chance.

He added that demolition work would start 'very shortly' if the takeover package was not deemed viable.

The council wants to replace the venue, which has hosted stars including Laurel and Hardy, Gracie Fields and George Formby, with a landscaped open public space. It was last used as a theatre more than 40 years ago, became a bingo hall and in recent years has been unused.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome aim to take over the iconic venue and re-open it as a theatre. Up to £8 million would be needed.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, head of planning and regeneration at Dudley Council, said: "An issue has come about over bats. There will have to be a bat survey. We don't know if there are bats in there but they are an endangered species and in hibernation, so we have had to avoid demolishing the building. We need to make sure any bats are protected before anything is done."

The Friends plan to change the name to the The Black Country Hippodrome should they secure its future.

Sir Lenny finally gets his Bafta

SIR Lenny Henry has been presented with a Bafta award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to television.

The Dudley-born comedian, actor and writer, best known for his work on Comic Relief and recently TV drama The Syndicate, was honoured with the Alan Clarke Award at the Royal Festival Hall in London on Sunday. Sir Lenny said his late mother, Winifred, would have been proud. "My mum would've been really chuffed," he said on his way to the ceremony. "I'm really looking forward to making the speech and talking about how long it's taken to get here. It's been about 42 years and I'm very, very proud to be here."

He has called for more diversity in the entertainment industry to better reflect British society.

Halfpenny Green Vineyard festival

HALFPENNY Green Vineyard, near Stourbridge, is marking English Wine Week by holding its first food and wine festival.

The free admission event is being held at the vineyard at Tom Lane, Bobbington, on Saturday, May 28, from 10.30am.

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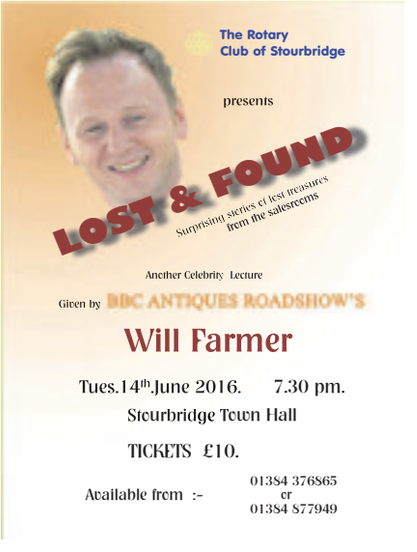

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Fraudster fleeced pop fans over gig tickets

A FRAUDSTER who fleeced music fans out of thousands of pounds by selling fake concert tickets for big-name artists – including One Direction and Lady Gaga – has been warned he faces a prison sentence.

Matthew Thompson, of Dudley, sold non-existent tickets to gigs over the internet. After paying his victims never heard from him again.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told he was back to his old ways within weeks of receiving a suspended prison sentence in 2013.

Thompson pleaded guilty to 12 specimen charges of fraud from a list of 17. The court heard he also left fans of country star Garth Brooks and crooner Michael Buble out of pocket.

Mr Timothy Hannam, prosecuting, described the 36-year-old, who used websites such as Ebay and Gumtree, as a 'persistent' offender.

Thompson, of Tudor Vale, Upper Gornal, carried out the con between October 2013 and May 2014, making a total of £2,110. He asked the court to consider another 14 similar offences which took place between October 2013 to September 2015, making a further £2,526.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said Thompson was 'well aware' he was going to prison having breached a 20-week jail term suspended for two years following his last court appearance in November 2013 for similar offences.

The judge adjourned the case until June 10. Thompson was granted unconditional bail.

50 Filipino nurses for Russells Hall

THE first new nurses from the Philippines are set to start working at Russells Hall Hospital this year.

Bosses revealed that 50 nurses from the Asian country will begin working at the Dudley hospital in December. They are set to be followed by more nurses recruited in the Philippines.

In March it was revealed that more than 130 nurses from the Pacific islands country would be recruited. The move came after figures revealed some shifts had been understaffed at the hospital over the past 12 months.

At a board meeting of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust earlier this year, it was said recruitment was planned in the Philippines and India.

Filipino nurses are also to work in Sandwell and Wolverhampton.

Homes proposed at former garage

TWENTY homes will be built on a former garage in Dudley, under plans lodged with the council. Proposals for 12 houses and eight dormer bungalows on land off Ketley Hill Road have been submitted to Dudley Council.

More display space at glass museum

An artist's impression of the new museum

A NEW glass museum to open in Wordsley this summer is to be larger than originally planned.

Bosses at the £5.5 million White House Cone Museum of Glass have decided to use an extra 600sq m of space as part of the venue rather than renting it out as planned. They had a change of heart after deciding they wanted the room to be part of the attraction and are now asking for ideas on how to use it. A range of options are being considered, including interactive facilities for families to use.

The famous Stourbridge Glass Collection is being moved to the new centre, which is nearing completion. The display area is now three times larger than where the collection was at Broadfield House in Kingswinford.

Graham Knowles, chairman of the British Glass Foundation, said the organisation was open to a range of options for the additional space. He also admitted that the revenue lost by not renting the area out will have to be made up elsewhere.

He said: "The overwhelming preference is to take on more space for glass-related activities to widen the scope for visitors. We propose this takes place in the units that were originally going to be rented out to raise income towards running costs. We must also ensure that we can raise that equivalent amount of income to ensure sustainability for the whole attraction.

"We would therefore like ideas about what the additional space could be used for and also how funds could be secured to cover the cost of making these spaces part of the new museum."

Ideas can be emailed to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

School sued for girl's self-defence class bill

A FATHER is suing his daughter's school in Brierley Hill for the cost of self-defence classes after claims she was being bullied.

The parent, who does not want to be named, has issued a small claims court order against Thorns Community College in Brierley Hill as a way of equipping his daughter 'with the necessary skills to protect herself'. It is believed to be one of the first claims of its kind in the country.

Andy Cox, principal at the school in Stockwell Avenue, said the school has received the court notification and will be 'acting on that in due course'.

The parent, after hearing his daughter had allegedly been bullied, approached the school's head of inclusion. He then went to Mr Cox, before progressing to the chairman of governors, Dennis Hodson.

But the father claims his daughter has continued to be bullied on a daily basis, so he enrolled her onto a self-defence class and is now attempting to reclaim the costs of that from the school, which has refused to reimburse him.

Support

Now, with the backing of a recently founded parents' support group, he has turned to the courts to claim back the £57.35 cost of the classes, plus £25 court costs.

Luke, the interim chairman of Parents Against Bullying at Thorns, an anonymous group of parents, said: "This is thought to be the first case of its kind anywhere in the United Kingdom where a parent has been forced to take such drastic action due to the inability of the school's leadership to deal with a case of bullying.

"We have fully advised and supported the parent throughout the dealings he has had with the school. If the case is successful, we will be encouraging other parents whose children are being bullied to take the same action."

Mr Cox said: "The claims made by the parent stem from an issue concerning a pupil which was dealt with swiftly and appropriately by staff earlier this year.

"It is important we protect this pupil, along with all other pupils at the school, and it is for this reason we will not be going into further detail on this matter.

"We have a zero tolerance policy on all kinds of issues including bullying, verbal abuse and racism."

Liz Dickinson, as Boadicea Heptinstall, and Neil Wood, as Albert Perkins, in Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society's play Pull The Other One

Oh no, it's the wife's mother!

A MONSTROUS mother-in-law provides the laughs when Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society's latest production takes to the stage.

Pull The Other One centres around the blossoming relationship of Albert and Muriel Perkins. But newly married bliss in interrupted by the arrival of Muriel's overbearing mother, Boadicea Heptonstall. When Albert innocently agrees to pose nude for an aspiring artist, things go from bad to worse.

Director Andrew Rock said: "It is about a young man married to his new wife who's mother-in-law is a domineering figure and won't let them settle down.

Playwright

The comedy, by playwright Norman Robbins, will be performed at Kingswinford Methodist Church on Steam Road from Wednesday, May 18, to Saturday, May 21.

It well be the second production of the year for the Wordsley group, celebrating the society's 93rd year.

Tickets cost £7, call the box office on (01384) 821943.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£240,000 waste revamp agreed

A £240,000 project to make improvements to a council waste depot has been given the go-ahead.

Dudley Council needs to carry out repair work to an emergency waste bunker, which is located at its Lister Road site.

The authority is required by the Environment Agency to have an area where waste can be tipped in any emergency situation.

Improvements will also be made to a storage area for road sweeping debris as part of the expenditure approved by council leader Councillor Pete Lowe.

Station parking hit during work

RESURFACING works were due to start at a train station car park this week, which will see parking spaces reduced for the next month.

Work at Stourbridge Junction station will be phased over the next four weeks, with no more than 140 spaces to be off limits at any time.

But there will then be a complete closure of the busy commuter car park over the weekend of June 11 and 12 as the work is completed.

Pedestrian access from Lutley Drive onto Brook Road car park will also be restricted on some dates.

Man hurt in 50ft fall at Kinver Edge

A MAN fell 50ft at Kinver Edge sparking a search in the dark to find him.

A police helicopter was over the beauty spot near Stourbridge using a search light and thermal imaging, while ambulance and fire crews led the hunt on the ground after the incident was reported at 9.30pm on Saturday.

A man was found unconscious and taken to hospital suffering head and chest injuries. Another person was treated for minor injuries at the scene.

MP's coffee morning to help Christian Aid

AN MP will host a charity coffee morning in Stourbridge tomorrow (Friday) in support of Christian Aid.

Stourbridge MP Margot James has organised the event which will start at 10am at St Thomas' Church Hall in Market Street.

It will include a presentation by students from Ridgewood High School about their charity work for communities in the Gambia. Coffee and tea will be served, along with a selection of soft drinks and cakes.

Pensioners' meeting

THE next meeting of Halesowen branch of the West Midlands Pensioners' Convention takes place on Thursday, May 19. It will be held in the Shenstone Theatre above Halesowen Library at 10.30am, featuring a talk on health by Michelle O'Meara. Refreshments will be served.

It's time to put your foot down on fungal nail infection!

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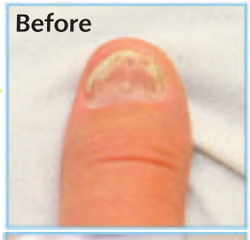

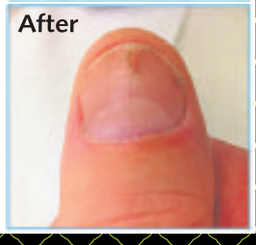

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AFTER a recent item on global warming, a former teacher (they never give up, do they?) says I should learn the difference between climate and weather. Please, sir, I know it already, sir. Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get.

IS it over? Is it safe to come out? Can we switch on the telly or radio without being bombarded with Leicester City overkill? When this once-restrained nation of ours reaches the stage when the Daily Telegraph announces: "Leicester: the centre of the universe" and "Conquerors of the world" you know things have gone too far and the game has made a quantum leap from football to hyperball.

ONE of the most irritating things about being a football fan is those fair-weather fans who turn up with flags, rattles and scarves when things are going well and are never to be seen in the hard times. I recall a TV interview with a fan from some Northern club which had just emerged from obscurity into the dizzying heights of mediocrity. The point he was making was that he had never, ever missed a match. "I'm a die-hard, I am," he exclaimed and suddenly burst into tears, overwhelmed by his own dedication. The Good Lord, in His infinite wisdom and mercy, made me entirely without the football gene, for which I am truly thankful.

IN the wake of the Ken Livingstone affair, pundits have been queuing up to explain the difference between anti-zionism and anti-semitism. The first is hatred of Israeli government policy, and is okay. The second is hatred of Jews, which is clearly not okay. It gets complicated when anti-semitic people try to pretend they are merely anti-zionist. Two simple questions usually sort it out: Do you believe the state of Israel has a right to exist? If not, can you explain how you can contemplate something so hateful as the destruction of the Jewish homeland, without hating Jews?

I HAVE a friend whose most vivid memory of the 1962 Cuban crisis was of a 10-year-old classmate coming to school in tears because "Daddy says we'll all be dead by tonight." What sort of adult says such a terrible thing in front of an impressionable child? Probably the same sort of adult who claims their kids are scared and stressed out by school SATS tests. Adults have infinite power to plant ideas in the minds of trustful children. Tell your kids the school tests are a breeze and a bit of a game and they'll look forward to them. Imprint your own prejudices on them and the kids will be worried to death.

WE may never agree on whether to stay in the EU or leave. But can we at least agree to quit the Eurovision Song Contest?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Hospital to improve poor food rating

DUDLEY'S Russells Hall Hospital has one of the highest proportions of poor food in hospitals in England, a survey has found.

One in seven dishes tasted during a survey was given a poor rating and six out of 39 food items tested at the hospital, run by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, were given a poor rating for either taste, texture or temperature.

Not getting the temperature right was the biggest issue, affecting all the poorly rated items, with all being at least acceptable for taste and texture.

Best

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust was one of the best in the West Midlands with 95 out of 96 items rated as good or very good for taste and at least acceptable for texture and temperature.

The survey was carried out by Patient-Led Assessments of the Care Environment (PLACE) programme last year.

Chief executive of the Dudley Group Paula Clark was pleased the overall food score had improved from 84.28 per cent in 2014 to 86.08 per cent in 2015 and said that a lot of work had been done with patients to improve the hospital's food over the last 12 months, namely a new Chosen by Patients menu with increased choice and dishes tried and tested by the patients.

She said: "We look forward to welcoming our PLACE teams back to the hospital and hope that our improvements are reflected in this year's scores."

140 jobs on way as bus operator expands

By Richard Guttridge

AROUND 140 jobs are to be created as part of a Black Country bus operator's expansion plans.

The Diamond Bus Company has been given the all-clear to take over former offices in Tipton Road, Tividale, a short distance from its existing base.

The firm, which runs services across the West Midlands, will create a new bus park at the site, with some of the disused office buildings to be demolished.

Diamond is due to start work on the move soon after the plans were given the nod by planning chiefs.

Company bosses said the move was necessary due to the growth of the company and have taken advantage of the opportunity to use the disused site just a short distance away off John's Lane.

Diamond has just launched two new services in the Birmingham, a signal of its growth.

A car park at the new site will be expanded to become the new bus park. Part of a four-storey former office block known as The Stones Building will be knocked down along with several other buildings that were associated with the site.

Expansion

The company said it expected work to begin in the 'near future' and confirmed 140 jobs are expected to be created 'in the next six to 12 months'.

Most of the esxtra workers are expected to be drivers as the company seeks to expand the number of services it runs.

Business expert Ninder Johal, who is a board member at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "The Black Country continues to grow and prosper and is second highest area in the country for investment."

Diamond buses are routinely seen in the Black Country with services in West Bromwich, Walsall, Stourbridge and Halesowen. A service runs to the Merry Hill shopping centre from Birmingham.

Mayor's big night out boosts charities

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho dances with Sarah Attwood from Brierley Hill judged by the Fizzogs

THE outgoing Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, put on his dancing shoes at the grand fundraising finale to his civic year.

Councillor Waltho and his wife Jane arranged the event at The Venue in Dudley on Saturday night to thank people for their support over the past 12 months.

Around £50,000 has been raised for the Mayor's five charities during his year as the borough's first citizen.

Black Country comedy outfit the Fizzogs performed at the event and there was music from The Empty Can, the band behind the Black Country's official anthem. Singers Chris Passey and Richie Ray also took to the stage at the event.

The Mayoress put her husband, along with Labour group leader Pete Lowe and Councillor Melvyn Mottram through their paces in a special 'Mayor Does Strictly' dance contest.

Councillor Waltho said: "We wanted to thank all the people who have helped us out through the year. It was better than we could have ever expected. The evening was fantastic, the atmosphere was something to savour and everyone said what a marvellous night it was."

"We think we are close to, or just over, £50,000 which I think will be a record. It's been a phenomenal year.

The Mayor's five charities are The Hope Centre, The What? Centre, More Mascots Please, Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund, Russells Hall and The West Midlands Lupus Group.

Academy is praised by Ofsted for improving

AN ACADEMY ordered to improve by Ofsted three years ago has driven up standards to be rated as 'good'.

Staff at Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath have been praised by inspectors after 'rapid' progress at the school, which has 1,274 students on the roll, since the last inspection.

Back in November 2013 the school was rated as 'requires improvement'.

As well as grading the academy as 'good' overall, Ofsted has also rated it 'good' in every category it was inspected – including sixth form, personal development, pupil outcomes, quality of teaching and effectiveness of leadership and management.

Steps taken to make improvements include organising effective training for teachers that has helped them to develop and improve, regular checks on pupils' progress in lessons and providing disadvantaged students with more support.

GCSE results have improved in each of the last three years and A level students recorded 63 A* grades, with 63 per cent of students achieving five A* to C grades last year.

The report, following the inspection which took place on March 22 and 23, says: "The school has made significant improvements since the last inspection and pupils are now making good progress across a range of subjects."

Principal Andrew Burns said: "This wonderful achievement reflects all the hard work and dedication of so many people. This has been a real team effort."

Charity offering family support

PARENTS of children and young people at Birmingham Children's Hospital with very complex medical conditions are receiving the extra support they need from a new nursing role created by national charity WellChild.

Nurse Rachel Shanahan has taken the position as part of the WellChild Nurses' programme, set up to improve care for children with long-term serious illnesses.

She works closely with community nursing colleagues and parents, offering home support to minimise the number of hospital readmissions.

Mary Hobin, Head of Nursing at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "We are really excited about this new team and the positive impact it will have on the children and families."

Community garden is selling its plants

A PLANTS sale is being held at a community gardens project in Dudley.

The event at Jasmine Road Community Garden in Kates Hill is on Saturday from 10am to 2pm. The garden holds courses for the jobless and people with learning disabilities.

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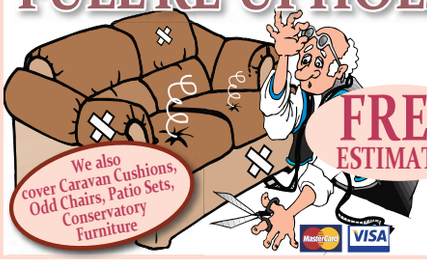
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Bollywood star to Mika his major Mela debut

THE first act has been announced for this year's Sandwell and Birmingham Mela, which is expected to attract more than 80,000 people.

Bollywood singer Mika Singh will be entertaining audiences at the event, returning to Smethwick's Victoria Park on July 16 and 17 for the sixth year.

The two-day festival has become the biggest of its kind in the UK.

After live shows across India and in Dubai, USA, Canada and Africa, Singh is set to perform in the UK with his band for the first time at an outdoor event. He will be among more than 100 artists at the event with more acts to be announced in the coming months.

Danny Singh, event director said: "This year we have put in the extra effort and are bringing something really special."

The Sandwell and Birmingham Mela. presented by Star Plus, has more than doubled in size since its inaugural event in 2011 and is supported by Arts Council England.

The event is open between 12pm and 7pm on both days with an entry fee of £1 per day. Event parking is available in Victoria Park at £5 per car. Tickets are available online at www.birmingham mela.com and on the gate.

Meanwhile, Indian music scene superstar Asha Bhosle is to come to the Genting Arena on September 17 as part of the 82-year-old Bollywood veteran's farewell tour.

July inquest into lorry driver death

AN inquest has been adjourned on a lorry driver who died at delivery firm depot in Brierley Hill.

Leighton Jardine, aged 60, of Tithe Barn Road, Stafford, was crushed between a lorry and a trailer at Tuffnells Parcels Express in Brierley Hill on January 22.

A pre-hearing review will now take place on June 27 before a provisional three-day inquest date will be set for July.

A jury will also be present along with several witnesses, including Mr Jardine's wife, employees from Tuffnells Parcels Express and Health and Safety Executive representatives.

Mr Jardine was pronounced dead at the scene on the The Wallows Industrial Estate, in Fens Pool Avenue.

Royal celebration for church fair

AN Upper Gornal church is celebrating the Queen's 90th year at its summer fair.

The Royal celebration is being held on Saturday in the hall at St Peter's in Kent Street,10.30am to 2.30pm.

Milestone at £5m specialist care complex

Gower Gardens is to open in September

A STATE-OF-THE-ART care home in Halesowen has celebrated reaching a landmark stage in its development.

The 66-bed three-storey care complex called Gower Gardens, in Kent Road, will open in September replacing the former 1960s Shenstone Care Home demolished last year. Up to 50 jobs will be created.

The organisation behind the £5 million build, Rowley Regis-based Black Country Housing Group (BCHG), had a 'topping out' ceremony which saw BCHG chief executive Amanda Tomlinson place the last tile on the roof.

The facility will provide a home for older people in the area with care and support needs. It will be set within landscaped gardens and provide dementia care. It will also have on-site hairdressing facilities and café area.

All rooms will be en-suite with modern facilities such as wi-fi for connecting to the internet and flat screen TVs.

Members of the BCHG team, led by Amanda Tomlinson, were present at the ceremony. She said: "Gower Gardens will become a cornerstone of the community providing much-needed high-quality care for local people in a state-of-the art building. By providing specialist care and facilities for people with dementia we hope to meet a range of local needs."

The former Shenstone Care Home was closed by Dudley Council in 2012. All staff were redeployed within the adult social care service.

The construction of Gower Gardens has been the first purpose-built care home development for BCHG.

The formal opening of Gower Gardens will take place in September after a series of open days in August.

Charity warning over Right to Buy sell-off

A CHARITY has warned that more than 300 council homes in Dudley could be sold off to help fund the Government's Right to Buy extension scheme – despite long waiting lists for properties.

Homeless charity Shelter estimates that a total of 1,239 properties across the region (including Staffordshire) could be sold on the open market once they become vacant. But housing bosses in Dudley say it is too early to know how Right to Buy extension scheme will affect the borough.

Shelter estimates that a total of 338 social housing properties would have to go on the market once they become vacant to fund the scheme. The money raised through the sale of 'high value' homes could then be used to fund discounts of up to £100,000 for housing association tenants taking up the Right to Buy offer.

But Dudley Council said it was still awaiting confirmation from the Government and it was not yet known how the scheme will be implemented.

Assumptions

Alan Lunt, strategic director for the place directorate at Dudley Council, said: "While we note the figures released by Shelter around the proposed impact of the Government's right to buy policy, their report is based on a number of assumptions and makes it clear that the Government has not yet determined how the policy will be implemented.

"Therefore, in order to ensure that we can make informed decisions, we intend to await the detail of the policy and its implementation plan before assessing the impact on Dudley Council."

Shelter say councils in the area will need to raise more than £130 million through the sale of 'high value' homes to pay for the subsidies, under an extension to the Right to Buy scheme, which is now being put through Parliament as part of the Housing and Planning Bill.

The Right to Buy scheme helps eligible council and housing association tenants buy their home at discounted market value.

Shelter predicts that Dudley Council needs to find £42.4m and could be forced to sell off 338 properties

There is estimated to be more than 20,000 people on waiting lists for properties across the region.

Care home manager Pearl Bartlett has retired after 21 years working at the Chandos Lodge Nursing Home in Stourbridge Road, Hagley

Home's Pearl of a boss retires

A CARE home manager has retired after more than two decades of loyal service.

Pearl Bartlett, manager at Chandos Lodge Nursing Home in Hagley, bowed out after a special party was organised by staff and residents to show appreciation for her 21 years of service.

Activities co-ordinator at the Stourbridge Road home, Vicky Bennett, said: "We will really miss Pearl, she is one of a kind. She has done so much for the care home, her colleagues, our residents, and their families. She is a popular, amazing lady who puts everyone before herself. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her.

"Although she is leaving I know Pearl is looking forward to spending more time with her family and she fully deserves to put her feet up. Although knowing her as I do, I can't see her taking it easy. She will always be helping people."

Pearl said: "It's been a tremendous 21 years here at Chandos Lodge and I leave with so many happy memories. I will miss everyone terribly but will always pop in for a cup of tea."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Action on trouble caused by yobs

POLICE have stepped up patrols around the Merry Hill shopping centre following reports of an increase in anti-social behaviour.

Brierley Hill Police said youths had been coming from outside the area and causing trouble at the centre.

The problems have been highlighted by the local policing team and a crackdown has now been launched. Officers are to work with centre bosses as well as Travel West Midlands.

The force said incidents involving yobs near the centre had increased in recent weeks leading to complaints.

Civil War subject for history talk

A HISTORIAN will be exploring the impact of the English Civil War on the Black Country and Worcestershire during a talk later this month

Max Keen will be speaking to members of Clent History Society on May 26 about The English Civil War in Bewdley, Kidderminster, Worcester and Stourbridge.

He will be dressed as 'a Civil War officer of the Royalist persuasion' at the meeting in Clent Parish Hall, Church Avenue, at 8pm.

The admission fee is £2.50 for non-members, including refresments.

Fridges dumped by fly-tippers

FLY-TIPPERS have dumped multiple fridges at two different locations in the Black Country.

Four fridges were dumped at Foxcote Lane, in Cradley, while another four were dumped at Pedmore Lane, Stourbridge.

Halesowen South Councillor David Vickers has contacted both Dudley Council and Worcestershire County Council and asked them to remove the appliances.

Peaky look and a listen to Black County dialect

REPRESENTATIVES of the Black Country Festival were invited to the BBC in London when The One Show marked the return of West Midlandst gangster drama Peaky Blinders.

Steve Edwards, Dave Brownhill and James Stevens, frontman of Black Country Anthem band The Empty Can, appeared on The One Show last week to demonstrate Black Country dialect. The between-the-wars thriller was largely filmed at the Black Country Living Museum.

Car park rubbish fire

A FIRE broke out in Stourbridge town centre after a hedge and a pile of rubbish were set alight at a car park.

Fire crews were called to Coventry Street on Thursday night where a hedge had caught fire close to an apartment building

No-one was reported injured.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Slow down: education moves are just too fast

AS you may probably deduce from my weekly ramblings, I am no educationalist. And I have no view one way or the other whether converting all schools into academies would be a good thing, a bad thing, or as perhaps many of us suspect, will make very little difference either way.

Given the amount of furore it has caused though, it does cross my mind that many in today's government would do well to learn from the old '80s warhorse Norman Tebbit, who argued that the key to getting radical reform accepted was to "stay one step behind public opinion", and leave the population demanding more.

Regardless of which side of the fence you sit on, it doesn't seem rocket science that slow, progressive change is usually more sustainable than these big macho policy announcements that politicians seem so fond of these days.

Still, I'm glad the plan is on hold, for the simple reason it means we will no longer have to hear the ghastly words "academise" or "academisation" for a while.

Like I said, I'm no educationalist, but I do know that academy is a noun and not a verb. Don't they teach them anything in schools these days?

❒ ❒ ❒

IN the recent election for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, 11,704 ballot papers were rejected because people had not given a clear intention of who they were voting for.

Now this could mean that a very significant proportion of the population are too dim to understand how to indicate who their first and second choice candidates are. Or, alternatively, it might be that there are nearly 12,000 people who are so sad that they will go to the trouble of walking or driving to a polling station for no other reason than to deliberately spoil their paper in some juvenile form of protest.

Either way, it's a rather sad indictment of society.

❒ ❒ ❒

FOR all the self-important, self-indulgent rants of the luvvies, the most outrageous comment at the Bafta awards surely came from the body's own chairman Anne Morrison, who said: "The British TV industry is the envy of the world."

Has she watched any British TV in the past 10 years? X Factor, The Voice, shouty soaps, endless hours of depressing 'psychological dramas' with sweaty close-ups, muffled dialogue and tinkly background music.

I don't think I can remember a time when there was so much choice of stuff not to watch. Which probably explains why the number of TV-free homes in the UK are now at the highest level since 1972.

Envy of the world? I'm beginning to think the people we should be envying are those who don't pay £145.50 a year to watch this dross.

Paycare boss Kevin Rogers who didn't take on the role

Mr Wright paying tribute to Darren Cooper at the recently held memorial event at West Bromwich Town Hall

Albion chairman Jeremy Peace, with sporting and technical director Richard Garlick, and Adrian Wright

Ninder Johal, the previous president of the chamber

Adrian kicks off with role to help business

ROB GOLLEDGE talks to the new man at the helm of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Adrian Wright

ADRIAN Wright knows what his top priority is as the man at the helm of Black Country business – a PR mission to sell and celebrate the region.

As West Bromwich Albion's sales and marketing director he is used to securing deals from £2.5 million shirt sponsorships to £30,000 hospitality packages from companies all over the world.

And knowing the benefits of good PR is what he thinks he can bring as President of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

The 39-year-old said: "I have a real strong belief in that from a PR point of view I would be hoping to be shouting about businesses to amplify what they do and how they economically benefit the region."One thing I don't think we do very well is talk about the region and what our successes are. There are some exceptional businesses that are doing incredible things that no-one knows anything about.

Relationships

"I think it is really important we amplify those opportunities so wider West Midlands, national and global media are aware of them."

He moved to the Hawthorns six years ago after a spell at Blues as head of corporate sales.

And he hopes to bring a bit of Premier League nous to the chamber.

He said: "With it being a membership body and being very media and PR driven, communication is imperative to satisfy members.

"Look at my day job which is acquiring sponsors, executive clients, box holders. They are effectively buying membership into an establishment. We offer them assets that benefit their business which is no different from the chamber."The wants and needs can be very different but ultimately it is about relationships, delivery and retention.

Communication is imperative – Adrian Wright

Keeping an eye on the future of steel industry

"One thing I have instilled into people I have had the fortune to speak to at the chamber is to make sure we retain the members we have got – that is really important. I have always been schooled that it is twice as hard to recruit a new member than to maintain one."

Mr Wright has taken up the reigns replacing the popular Ninder Johal after two years.

And he also just penned a deal with the University of Wolverhampton on a sporting initiative called Pass it Forward – providing football coaching skills for young people in India.

The partnership has been set up with the Delhi Government, local football team Delhi Dynamos, Youth Football International, and the West Bromwich Albion Foundation.

The initial programme will see sports coaching practice degree students from the university's Institute of Sport travelling to Delhi with WBA Foundation coaches to provide school-based football coaching for around 35,000 children between the ages of five and 14. And he is more than aware the impact football can have in all sorts of walks of life.

He said: "You talk to a lot of people in terms of football and it touches a lot of the community. We are a condensed area with five clubs which have been represented at a high level. Next season we are a Premier League club and I think that is something we have to capitalise on. As a local venue we communicate with our local communities, we have a lot of businesses coming in to use our facilities. Match days are a pinnacle where we have people from all over the country visiting our stadium, we connect live at the game, digitally and by the airwaves to a massive audience."

And he admits, having Wolves back in the top flight would benefit the economy. He said: "To have two Premier League clubs would be better. While we are in the Premier League we will fly the flag for the West Midlands and ensure our region is on the map."

Mr Wright was an 11th hour replacement after Kevin Rogers, boss of Wolverhampton firm Paycare, said he could not take up the role due to work commitments.

He said: "One of the perils of being a Premier League football club is the tendency to resonate to the international market and sometimes you can lose touch with your local roots. Being born and bred Brummie, and working in the Black Country for six years it was a perfect opportunity. I threw my hat in the ring and the board unanimously backed me. I have taken on the challenge and am looking forward to it.

"Ultimately there are some internal things we need to address – what value is it adding to members, what services we are providing and what we can do for them. One thing the chamber is good at doing is keeping people aware about what is going on in business and major things, the agenda, EU referendum, Tata issues, a lot of the things the Chamber needs to have its finger on the pulse so that members and the wider business community understand what impact it will have on their business."

Meanwhile, supporting manufacturers, getting to grips with the steel crisis, and the EU referendum are the big topics.

He said: "With manufacturing being 40 per cent of the area's GDP output, it is important that our manufacturing base is not eroded and making sure they are at the cutting edge of their games. The referendum from a chamber perspective is we won't take a view backing either camp. "On steel we are keeping a very close eye on it. There are around 150 businesses connected to the steel industry and naturally we want to ensure we are fed the correct information. As we speak it is a watching brief and we have set up a lobbying group that is trying to pull together a commercialisation deal which if no-one was to buy Tata then that the Government would come in and stabilise it until in a good enough position to be sold. Whether that happens remains to be seen but it is something we support as a Chamber. Thousands of jobs and in the supply chain depend on this industry

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Carers are now working within very strict rules

REGARDING carers charged over choking case – People must realise how dedicated carers must be to look after 'clients' with learning difficulties and other problems.

These carers had looked after this lad for many years. My daughter has the same problem with swallowing and is allowed to consume certain foods in the correct manner, like sitting upright at a table in the dining area.

Unaware of this affliction my wife and I cared for her for over 40 years, letting her feed herself with everyday meals. No problems.

Now she is in care all the rules apply regarding meals and food. When I visit I let her have her favourite snacks. If the worst happened would I be charged with manslaughter?

The rules and regulations are now so severe that experienced carers are resigning and vacancies are being slowly filled by carers who have to be trained to administer the drugs. Now we have a shortage of staff and the quality of care is becoming difficult to maintain.

A few years ago I gave my daughter her drugs as usual, not knowing my wife had also done this. Panic, an overdose. We rushed her to hospital and happily no harm was done. The shock and fear was punishment enough but should I have been charged?

The situation is dreadful regarding the regulations with responsible carers unable to carry out their tasks without worry because one slip and they are suspended or dismissed or even charged.

All the carers I know treat their clients like human beings or even like their own child.

L AMBROSE
Kingswinford

Liverpool vindicated – truth is out at last

AT last after 27 years, the truth about Hillsborough has finally been heard.

The families can now let their loved ones rest in peace.

As a lifelong Liverpool supporter I (along with every other LFC fan) am proud of all of the families for their continuing never-ending fight and am also proud to wear the Liver Bird on my chest.

We have stood side by side at Anfield on every April 15 praying for what has happened, and I (on behalf of all LFC fans) want to thank the jury and the solicitors who have made the decision possible.

The truth was told for 27 years, now they have no choice other than to believe us.

Let's hope criminal investigations follow and those responsible are held accountable.

B KNOWLES
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Employ the young to help the elderly

FOR most older people, the major concerns are their physical wellbeing and the prospects for their children and grandchildren. The major parties don't seem to be addressing these issues.

Every winter brings a spike in the number of elderly people dying from cold, usually from pneumonia. Many can only afford to heat one major room and often have to make a choice between staying warm and eating. The reason for this situation is that much of our housing stock is badly insulated and there is income inequality. Sweden, with a much colder climate, does not allow pensioners to die in this way.

Freak weather events such as the floods over Christmas and New Year are happening more regularly. House owners who fall victim may find that their homes have actually been built on flood plains. Some people in the worst affected areas may find that house insurance is either unaffordable or unobtainable.

Ironically, the fuel poverty affecting older people may be the thing that will provide jobs for the younger generation. Insulating our houses, reducing heating bills and this country's carbon footprint will create many jobs.

The Green Party has been highlighting these issues and advocating this solution for many years.

R TABERNER
Tividale

Long wait to speak to doc

I PHONED my doctors' surgery on April 29 to book an appointment. I was told that I could have a phone consultation on May 25... yes, the 25th of May. Otherwise I could book an appointment in June as they had nothing in May, or I have to phone every morning to hopefully be one of the lucky ones to get a emergency appointment. Can someone please tell me how I can predict when I will be ill so I can book a couple of months in advance?

S BOTFIELD
Dudley

It's an offence

WHAT a pleasure it to read the Chronicle as a whole and in particular Mark Andrews and Peter Rhodes. However, I must take issue with Mark.

Under Section 72 of the Highways Act 1835 it is an offence to drive on the footway in order to park or otherwise. I feel sure a mother with a pushchair would take him to task for encouraging thoughtless drivers to obstruct footways in this manner.

HARRY A DUNN
Halesowen

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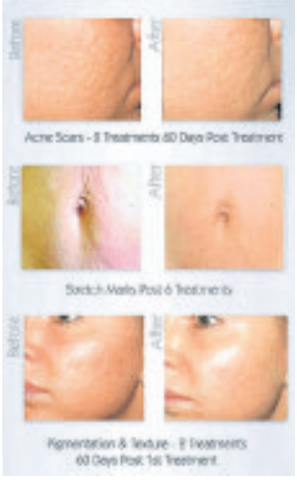

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Firefighters in battle to stop grass blaze threat to homes

FIREFIGHTERS battled for around three hours to keep a grass fire spreading to homes in Wordsley.

Crews from Dudley, Kinver and two from Brierley Hill were called to the land at the back of Braemar Avenue on Monday.

The blaze spread quickly over a wide area, fanned by by strong winds.

Two crews helped keep the flames from getting near homes on Braemar Avenue, and two crews were sent there to keep the fire at bay .

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesperson Neil Spencer said: "We received a call at 6.30pm and two fire engines carrying five fire fighters were dispatched from Dudley and Brierley Hill.

"There were also three extra fire fighters sent from Brierley Hill in a separate Brigade Response Vehicle.

"The location was near Ashwood Forest just off from Ashwood Park School and we arrived to find heathland on fire."

Specialist

The blaze was said to be 'spreading quickly because of strong winds' and was confirmed as threatening the nearby A449. Specialist equipment was used by the firefighters.

Mr Spencer added: "They used specialised beaters on foot to stop the fire spreading quickly.

"The Brigade Response Vehicles were used to give the fire fighters access that you don't necessarily have in a heavy engine."

As well as an extended house reel being used by the fire fighters, an occupier from one of the local properties also fought the flames with a house pipe as it spread into woodland

At its peak, the blaze covered an area of around 150 metres by 80 metres.

MP's event a showcase for universities

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James hosted an evening to showcase a variety of university options for local students.

It was the latest event in the Margot James Aspirations programme.

It enabled students to network with more than 15 leading UK universities, as well as UCAS – the body responsible for applications.

The event was held at Glasshouse College and was attended by more than 200 students and parents, as well as representatives of universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Southampton and King's College, London.

The Conservative MP said: "I was delighted that so many local students were able to attend this evening. The idea behind my Aspirations programme is to give every student the opportunity to think ahead for the future – whether that be going to university, becoming an apprentice or training for a job."

Council cuts mean Bloom plans wither

Happier times – Stourbridge in Bloom co-ordinator David Harcourt when the town won a gold award two years ago

STOURBRIDGE in Bloom is being cancelled this year due to Dudley Council cutbacks.

The town's scheme has won eight consecutive gold awards but organiser David Harcourt has had to take the unprecedented step of cancelling the popular community endeavour.

Councillor Christine Perks, said: "David did not want to do anything half heartedly. If they were going to go into it then they wanted to do it properly so they will give it a break this year.

"Previously Stourbridge in Bloom had a lot of support from the council but because of all the cutbacks it has lessened. It is incredibly difficult to do without more support. The good news is that they will still be doing something flower orientated I think but just not under 'In Bloom'."

Councillor Perks said that Amblecote in Bloom would be going ahead. She formed a Friends of Amblecote team to take that initiative forward last year.

She continued: "We have a lot of ideas going and aim to get more people involved."

Dudley Council had funded hanging baskets and large planters to aid Stourbridge in Bloom in the past. But now the authority is looking to save £25,000 from its 'In Bloom' budget across the borough, and is instead offering help to find alternative funding.

It is thought that around £12,000 would need to be sourced to cover the costs of planting and watering if Stourbridge were to re-enter the In Bloom campaign.

Road chaos as deluge follows hot weather

A SWIFT change in the weather caused problems on the roads in South Staffs and the Black Country with emergency services called out to multiple crashes and cars trapped in flood water.

Following a mini-heatwave, torrential downpours battered the region on Saturday afternoon which meant a busy few hours for firefighters.

One of the first incidents saw a car overturn on the road between Kinver and Stourbridge. The black hatchback blocked the narrow Gibbet Lane until it was recovered. An ambulance spokesperson said it was 'amazingly' fortunate that the one casualty involved was not seriously hurt.

Other incidents that evening included a car leaving the road near the Asda supermarket in Great Bridge, the red Ford Fiesta hitting road furniture in Brickhouse Lane. No-one was injured.

Walsall crews were out in force later that evening to help fish cars out of a flash flood. Fire control was 'inundated' with requests for help across that part of the Black County but said in most cases motorists were able to drive themselves out of the water.

Nightclub's appeal hearing adjourned

A NIGHTCLUB in Dudley will have to wait to find out whether its appeal against security measures imposed by the council will be successful.

Strict measures were imposed on Rock Zombie at the request of police in March which banned new customers from entering the venue after 1am and stipulated that six door staff had to be on duty at all times. This followed a series of incidents at the King Street venue.

The appeal hearing was due to be heard at Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday but was adjourned until Thursday, May 26.

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I thought wife blamed me over our girls' deaths

A BLACK Country businessman whose teenage daughters were killed in the Hillsborough disaster feared that his former wife blamed him for failing to look after them properly.

Trevor Hicks, the former managing director of Perma Systems in Kingswinford, and his ex-wife Jenni returned together to the scene of the 1989 tragedy at Sheffield Wednesday's ground, in which 96 Liverpool fans died.

Their visit to the stadium, for the first time in 25 years, can now be revealed following the conclusion of the two-year-long inquests which found that the Liverpool fans were unlawfully killed.

During a BBC documentary, standing with Jenni near the spot where their teenaged daughters Sarah and Vicki had lain on the turf, Trevor said: "I always thought Jenni blamed me for not looking after them properly."

Jenni replied: "It's never even entered my head to have blamed you. I never, ever have and still don't."

Talked

Jenni said: "The last time we were at that ground together was obviously the day of the Hillsborough disaster.

"As a couple we never talked about our own experiences because our group (Hillsborough Family Support Group) was formed very, very quickly and I guess we were into the 96, and it's not deemed appropriate just to talk about your own experiences.

"Then we split up a couple of years later. Sadly, our marriage broke down because of all the stresses and strains of it. So you never really had the opportunity to talk about it in such great detail and that's what going back together did. To have Trevor take me around and show me approximately where he was standing on the day, his movements, where the girls were, it really completed a picture for me. I could see it must have been cathartic for him as well."

Victoria Hicks died at the football match

Sarah Hicks died at Hillsborough

Trevor Hicks at St George's Hall, Liverpool, where there is a candle for each victim

Sarah, 19, and Vicki, 15, were crushed in the Leppings Lane end at the Hillsborough ground. They had arrived with both parents but the family split up before the start of the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. Jenni had a ticket for a seat in the North stand, while Trevor and the girls had tickets for the standing area.

Trevor said: "They were both bright girls with a lot in front of them. We didn't just lose the girls we lost ourselves."

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Zombie knives ban could be brought in this year

ZOMBIE knives will be banned in the UK by the end of the year, the Shadow Policing Minister says.

Jack Dromey said he was confident the deadly weapons would no longer be able to end up in the hands of young people — as he praised The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star for its campaign on the issue.

The blades, which can be up to 2ft in length and have names such as Head Splitter, Death Dagger and Decapitator have been bought online, with the Government now set to rush through legislation banning their sale, manufacture of importation.

The ease in availability of 'zombie knives' was highlighted by the Express & Star and The Chronicle last year, prompting the region's Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson to launch a campaign to ban the blades.

Jack Dromey MP – praised campaign

Ian Austin MP – spoke in Parliament

A typical example of a vicious 'zombie knife' available via the internet

Parliament

Mr Jamieson met Home Office minister Karen Bradley MP to discuss the issue earlier this month. Dudley North MP Ian Austin has also spoken in Parliament against the sale of the knives.

Now Mr Dromey, who has been a key member of cross-party discussions to try and bring about the ban, said he expects it to come into force by the end of the year – and a ban on other knives to follow soon after.

Labour's Shadow Policing Minister, who was speaking during a visit to Dudley, said: "Thanks to the campaign by David Jamieson and the Express & Star zombie knives will now be banned.

"Progress is also being made on the sale of knives on the internet more generally. We have formed a cross-party alliance to strengthen the case to end the nonsense of being able to by a knife that can kill on the internet without any age checks.

"The ban on zombie knives I am confident will be in place by the end of this year. The ban on buying knives on the internet more generally might take us into 2017. I am confident it's a battle we can win.

Mr Dromey referred to the death of schoolboy Bailey Gwynne in Aberdeen last year as an example of why action on knives was so important. He was stabbed by a 16-year-old at school with a knife bought online.

Mr Dromey said: "Young people should be able to walk on the streets of the Black Country and feel safe. Knives that can kill should have no place on our streets."

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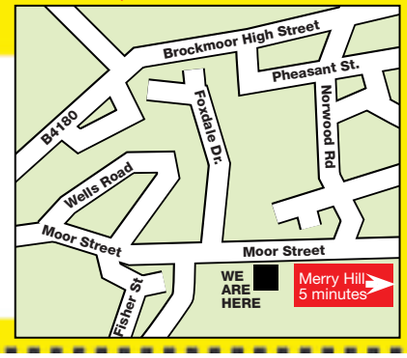

Burglaries were to fund cocaine habit

A 31-year-old, tempted into taking cocaine after mixing with the 'wrong crowd' has been jailed for a year after being lured back into crime to fund his drug habit.

Luke Furnival had previous convictions for 26 offences but had kept out of trouble for six years, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Then he committed two burglaries in as many days with a man who had led him astray.

Furnival first struck at a house in Redlake Drive in Stourbridge when the owner was out for the day, revealed Mr Rupert Jones, prosecuting.

Television

He said: "The defendant and another man were seen knocking at the front door of the address and returning 15 minutes later. This time they parked their car on the driveway.

"A neighbour saw Furnival carrying a television out of the house and called the police."

The burglars had broken in by smashing a rear patio door and stole property worth around £3,700 on February 8.

A witness noted the registration number of the car that was used by the thieves.

The following day Furnival and an accomplice hurled a brick through a patio door at an unoccupied address in Alveston, Warwickshire, and escaped with a jewellery box, iPad and two cameras.

Some of the stolen property was found in the car with Furnival when the vehicle hunted after the first burglary was stopped by police.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, for Furnival, said his client had been led astray after falling in with the wrong crowd.

The defendant, from Saint Michael Street, West Bromwich pleaded guilty to the two burglaries.

Jailing him for a year, Recorder Benjamin Nicholls told Furnival: "You had been out of trouble since 2009 and it looked like you had put your past life behind you.

"Then you got involved in these burglaries after socialising with someone who, in retrospect, was an undesirable influence. He introduced you to cocaine and you then agreed to join forces to fund your new habit."

The case against another man allegedly involved with the break-ins was dismissed at an earlier hearing.

Bank staff raise £450 for charity

A TEAM of bank workers walked 13 miles in three-and-a-half hours to raise £450 for a Black Country charity.

The Santander staff covered the distance from their High Street branch in Stourbridge to the bank's Five Ways branch in Birmingham, in aid of Dudley-based White House Cancer Support (WHCS).

Branch director, Clare Windsor said: "At Santander UK we ask our customers what charities are important to them and organise local events with different members of the branch team participating each time.

"We are proud to support our local communities and delighted to make a contribution to WHCS. We enjoyed the walk and all participants felt it was a fantastic achievement."

The charity's manager Caroline Webb said: "It's a remarkable effort and a very generous amount and we'd like to say thanks."

Bright spark but husband feels the heat

Husband James Clarke braves the heat at Baggeridge for this stunning image by his photographer wife Steph

IT looks like a scene fresh out of an action movie — where a dramatic sea of fire reigns down on a dark figure.

But this epic shot was taken by a Black Country photographic club member with the help of some clever camera trickery.

Photographer Steph Clarke, co-founder of Wednesfield Photographic Club, took it when he was out at Baggeridge Country Park on a Thursday evening. It shows her husband, James, dressed from head-to-toe and holding an umbrella, engulfed with burning wire wool that is being dropped from a disused railway bridge above.

Steph used the technique of an exposure to capture the scene, where the photograph was taken over four seconds.

Steph, 35, from Wednesfield, said: "We made the effects of the photograph where a member of our group stood on the bridge above and dropped burning wire wool over him. We took safety precautions although some of the wire managed to burn through his clothes and umbrella.

"He was wearing warm gloves and clothing and tried to cover as much flesh as possible. The burning wool looks incredible, it gives the effect that there are a lot more flames and sparks than there actually is. It is safe as long as there isn't any naked skin and the ground is wet."

Steph took the photograph with her Nikon D7000, a 'mid-range DSLR camera', whilst out on a trip with her group. The club, which now has more than 100 members, is celebrating its one year anniversary.

Martineau Gardens are talk topic

Clent Gardening Club

THE April meeting welcomed Caroline Hutton from the Martineau Gardens in Edgbaston, Birmingham who gave a talk on the work of this therapeutic garden.

The gardens comprise a 2.5 acre oasis in the heart of suburban Birmingham and is located opposite the Priory Hospital. Caroline advised that the gardens often provided a place for solace and quiet contemplation for people visiting relatives in the Priory and, despite the lack of a shop or café, there was always someone on hand to provide a welcome cup of tea.

Without the aid of photographs Caroline proceeded to provide a highly descriptive vision of the gardens, taking her audience through each section of the garden in stages.

The garden is unfunded and entirely staffed by volunteers and all visitors are welcome. The garden particularly works with handicapped children who can experience flowers and vegetables by taste, smell and touch.

An excellent talk was well received. Caroline was thanked by Nina Hatch's vote of thanks after which the chairman drew the raffle and announced the results of the monthly competitions.

He reminded members that the next monthly meeting was the annual joint meeting with Belbroughton Horticultural Society with Philip Aubury hosting a "Gardener's Question Time" hosted by Clent.

May this month be just as successful

A feast of cakes baked for a stall to celebrate St George's Day

Gornal Wood TWG

WHAT a busy time it was for Gornal Wood Townswomen's Guild during April.

On the 20th, the club we held its monthly meeting where everyone had a go at rag rugging. They were given a great demonstration by the lovely Pam Favil. More than 55 ladies were in attendance once again.

The following day, the ladies celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday with afternoon tea served in the Zoar Chapel. Lots of tea and cakes were consumed by 60 ladies.

On April 23, the guild held a cake stall at the St George's Day celebrations in Gornal village. Once again, they sold out of all the beautiful cakes the ladies baked.

The club now hopes May will be just as successful. On the 18th, there will be a talk on remedies by Kath Reynolds in the Darby and Joan Club, Abbey Street from 10am to noon.

Ladies enjoy trying their hand at rag-rugging at the April 20 meeting

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Bosses celebrate Merry Hill anniversary

intu Merry Hill managers Liz Taylor and Rob Pickersgill at the centre's reading tree, one of several new innovations

AS property developer intu celebrates its second anniversary since taking over Merry Hill shopping centre, bosses at the site have spoke of their vision and excitement for the future.

In May 2014 the Brierley Hill complex was taken over in a deal worth £407.7million and rebranded as 'intu Merry Hill' as intu jointly own the site with Australian investors QIC.

Since then the shopping centre has seen a revamp and won national awards.

Robert Pickersgill, Marketing Manager at intu Merry Hill, said: "We are excited for the future. We are about delivering world class customer service and creating a powerful shopping experience so that customers are happy.

"We are seeing increasing number of shoppers through the doors and our visitors have feedback that they like the improvements we have already made."

The revamp has seen the three-storey 'purple car park' receive a British Car Park award, plus colourful new branding.

Liz Taylor, General Manger at intu Merry Hill, said: "The inside looks amazing. We want retailers to bring their businesses to us."

A new larger Top Shop store has opened, free wi-fi is now widely available and a new 'chill-out' area features a reading tree on the ground floor. Stores are now open until 9pm each weekday.

Bosses are in discussions with WH Smith over its store after a notice appeared announcing its closure on June 8 after almost 30 years at the centre.

Legal high drug deaths treble

DEATHS linked to so-called 'legal highs' more than tripled in two years, an official report has found.

Experts said the number has increased over a 10-year period from 2004 with a total of 76 recorded during that time frame in England and Wales.

There was a "marked" rise between 2011 and 2013 when cases jumped from seven to 23.

A BBC TV documentary recently focussed on concerns over a legal high called Black Mamba, highlightint the problem in Wolverhampton.

The analysis by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – which comes as the Government prepares to introduce a crackdown on the drugs – found that men in their 20s were most at risk.

Its study said the average age for deaths involving legal highs is 28, 10 years younger than the average for illegal drugs.

The youngest person to die after taking a legal high was aged 18, and nine teenagers have died between 2004 and 2013.

Vanessa Fearn, mortality researcher at the ONS, said: "Some people think that because these drugs are or were legal until recently, they are safe. Forensic testing has shown that a single tablet or powder can contain a mixture of different substances, even 'traditional' illegal drugs, which may explain why the majority of deaths involving legal highs involved more than one drug."

A variety of so-called 'legal highs' seized by Trading Standards officers

The number of deaths involving legal highs remains "very small" compared with those linked to illegal drugs. In the same 10 year period there were more than 100 times as many deaths involving heroin/morphine (7,748) and more than 20 times as many involving cocaine (1,752). Legal highs – officially referred to as 'new psychoactive substances' – saw an explosion in popularity around 2008. They contain substances which mimic the effects of illegal drugs like cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy.

A blanket ban on the production, distribution, sale and supply of new psychoactive substances is scheduled within weeks, with sellers facing up to seven years in prison.

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Royal celebration at new apartments

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

MCCARTHY and Stone is inviting Kinver retirees and their families to raise a royal toast with them to continue the celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday on Saturday, May 14.

The retirement housebuilder's development in Kinver on Stone Lane, Lowestone Court, will be putting on a right royal spread for the occasion, complete with tea and cake for guests and homeowners to tuck in to, as well as providing the opportunity for guests to get a real taste for life at the development.

For those interested in popping along to the event, the celebrations will take place from 11am to 12.30pm.

Robert Monkman, Sales and Marketing Director for McCarthy and Stone, said: "Our tea party will be a fantastic way for visitors to join in with the nationwide celebrations of Her Majesty's 90th birthday.

"For those interested in finding out more about life at Lowestone Court, the event is the perfect way for visitors to relax and look around the stunning development, including the impressive on-site communal facilities, and ask any questions they might have about the fabulous lifestyle on offer.

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"What's more, they can also invite their loves ones to share the day with us too, and enjoy some delicious cakes and sparkling wine in the Queen's honour."

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McCarthy and Stone's Retirement Living developments are designed to offer homeowners the very best in independent living within a safe and secure environment, with the opportunity to benefit from companionship when they want it and privacy and assistance when they need it.

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The homeowners' lounge at Lowestone Court, Kinver

A stylish bedroom at one of the Lowestone Court apartments

A range of 24/7 security and support services are also available, including a camera door entry system and a 24-hour emergency call point, providing peace of mind for homeowners and their families.

To book your place at this special event, or for more information about how you can part exchange to Lowestone Court, please call 0800 201 4741 or visit www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk

Artist finds inspiration both at home and abroad

FROM tumbling Scottish waterfalls to the wild animals of Africa – it is all being captured on canvas by self-taught Stourbridge artist Phil Sedgley.

Black Country scenes found on his doorstep, such as a view of the canal looking towards Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone, also feature in his wide and varied collection of work.

Art has been a hobby for the 65-year-old since he was in his teens, when he received a set of oil paints one Christmas.

Now, after retiring from his job as an administrator last month he hopes to be able to spend more time at his easel.

He currently has an exhibition on show at Himley Hall called Some You Just Might Like and plans to hold more.

"With no formal training I just learned as I went along," said Mr Sedgley. "I learned the better paints to use and the best surface on which to paint a certain subject and that sometimes it is best to reject a composition when part-completed or, conversely, to continue with a composition even though it does not appear to be working, to find at the end that it has come together."

Mr Sedgley has also learned to work around being partly colour blind.

"It meant I was seeing browns as greens and greens and browns until it was pointed out. It has caused some problems along the way but I've just got on with it," he said.

The Some You Just Might Like exhibition will be on show in the Peach Room at Himley Hall until September 4.

'I just learned as I went along' – artist Phil Sedgley with his paintings that are on display at Himley Hall

Unemployed can get On Track now

FORTY long-term unemployed young people will benefit from a new £750,000 scheme being run by Barnardo's in Halesowen.

Through the On Track programme, they will receive up to six months of one-to-one coaching, helping them develop the skills they need to get into work, training or education.

Santander bank is providing funding of £750,000 for the programme as part of its three-year partnership with the charity which is based at Great Cornbow in Halesowen.

The project aims to build up young people's confidence, develop leadership skills and boost motivation, through activities such as DIY skills workshops along with CV writing workshops and interview tips.

Barnardo's chief executive Javed Khan, said: "Too often marginalised young people fall behind in the race to get a job. With the support of Santander, On Track will help those with the least opportunities get ahead."

Prison for killer driver who fled crash scene

A SPEEDING driver who fled the scene after killing a pedestrian by careering on to the pavement had been jailed for nearly five years.

Jordan Edwards was doing 73mph in a 30 limit when he lost control approaching the T-junction of Marriott Road and Cradley Road, Netherton, on November 7 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told last week.

The black Seat Ibiza with the 22-year-old at the wheel failed to make an intended right turn, hurtling across the main road and ploughing into Netherton man Gary Wroblewski, a tanker driver who was walking home from the pub.

The 53-year-old was killed almost immediately by the impact, said Mr David Bennett, prosecuting.

Edwards, who did not have a full driving licence but had several previous convictions for motoring offences, made no attempt to help the dying man.

Jordan Edwards – jailed

Embedded

He and another person were seen on CCTV running away down Marriott Road with the ignition key seconds after the smash, leaving the Seat Ibiza embedded in a roadside billboard.

The DNA of Edwards was found on an airbag in the vehicle and a cap discovered in a foot well. Traces of his blood had also been discovered on the inside of the windscreen, continued Mr Bennett.

The defendant – who owned the car – finally gave himself up to police in Brierley Hill on February 22, after being on the run for almost four months.

He admitted panicking and acting 'like a coward' the court was told.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, declared: "This was a short piece of bad driving at grossly excessive speed.

"He is mortified by what he has done."

Edwards, from Terry Street, Dudley, admitted causing death by dangerous driving and was jailed for four years and nine months.

Judge Kristina Montgomery QC, told him: "Approaching the T junction at 73mph, either you could not stop in time to look out into the junction or you had no intention of coming to a halt, taking the corner without stopping. The Seat veered across the entire carriageway, killing Mr Wroblewski.

"You had to be traced and did not come forward until many months later when you realised the police were unlikely to cease their search for you.

"You presented yourself to them but initially blamed the condition of your vehicle for what happened. The only fault that night was with your driving."

Edwards was also banned from driving for six years and will have to pass an extended test before receiving a driving licence.

Classes for active OAPs

NEW exercise classes for senior citizens will be taking place across the Dudley borough.

Participants in the Active Seniors will be taught by qualified specialists.

Classes will be held in Halesowen, Kingswinford, Sedgley, Hagley and Brierley Hill. For more information or a free taster session call Kim or Angela on 07512 546480.

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Yak attack with a savage debut

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

COMPRISING two Wulfrunians (singer/guitarist Oli Burslem and bassist Andy Jones) and a Kiwi (drummer Elliot Rawson), Yak make an impressive noise on their debut album Alas Salvation.

If you thought Royal Blood were raw and raucous, prepare to be blown away by Yak's savage, passionate, brutal blast. Is there something that makes Wolves folks want to roar because the city's other big noise God Damn are also ear-shreddingly intense, but even they can't match this trio's hard-hitting approach. That's apparent right from the start with screamo headbanger Victorious (National Anthem).

There are contrasts, Take It begins wistfully before upping the ante from psychedelic reverie to grinding riff, while Please Don't Wait For Me recalls Blue Jay Way from The Beatles' Magical Mystery Tour.

Use Somebody is a punk-grunge garage rocker of the first order and the energy on the melodic swagger of Harbour The Feeling could grab the attention of traditional rock fans, as could the twangy and explosive Smile.

Doo Wah is like a collision between The Velvet Underground and The Fall. However, Hungry Heart should be their anthem with Oli in declamatory form with a snarl of a vocal worthy of John Lydon. The fact that Oli looks like a young Mick Jagger will do them no harm either.

Gloomy but kind of glorious, Dublin's **September Girls** utilise stark surf guitar, reverb and grinding riffs to potent effect on **The Age of Indignation**. The indignation is a feminist response to life in Ireland, apparent on Jaw on the Floor and the angry Catholic Guilt. They use the swirling power of psych rock to pack a political, socially aware punch on a significant second album, particularly the incendiary title track taking the worst aspects of social media to task.

Brutal and passionate – Wolverhampton's Yak featuring Oli Burslem (centre)

September Girls are in concert with Telegram at Birmingham's O2 Academy 3 on Tuesday night.

Scottish indie rockers **Travis** still jangle nicely, and frontman Fran Healy croons pleasantly, much as they did in the immediate post-Brit Pop era when the Glaswegian quartet had hits with Driftwood, Why Does It Always Rain On Me, Turn and Sing.

Eighth album **Everything At Once** has typically Travis melodic and melancholy upbeat songs that should please the fans, such as What Will Come and arm-waving anthem Animals. There is some progression, the twitchy title track is fresh and Mancunian songstress Josephine Oniyama guests on Idlewild.

Travis are in concert at the O2 Academy in Birmingham tonight (Thursday).

The return of Minnesota's **The Jayhawks** should be celebrated by fans of alt-rock and Americana. Formed in the mid-80s, they sound as good as ever on **Paging Mr Proust**, first album in five years from the outfit led by singer, guitarist and songwriter Gary Louris.

The jangling, earnest Quiet Corners & Empty Spaces will warm the heart of any fan of The Byrds, Lemonheads or REM (whose Peter Buck produces). Lovers Of The Sun has a hazy Californian vibe, Leaving The Monsters Behind recalls The Band and Love, while The Devil Is In His Eyes is a rugged country rocker with mouth organ, harmonies and Crazy Horse style guitar.

There is a definite feel of the 1980s about **Cut And Paste**, the debut from young Londoner **Oscar** (Scheller). It is most apparent on The Human League-like punchy synth driven single Sometimes, featuring vocals from Florence Van Camerkj to contrast with Oscar's rich dark baritone. Maybe it's the voice but he also reminded me of Black on the reggae-flavoured Good Things and Only Friend, which features harmonies from Marika Hackman.

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Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

Onesie walk for leopards

Onesie Walkers make their way around the 5km course at Dudley Zoo and Castle in aid of the snow leopard Pic: Jason Skarratt

HUNDREDS of people donned onesies and descended on Dudley Zoo to help raise money for the resident snow leopards.

It was the third annual onesie walk at the Castle Hill attraction with more than 300 turning out. The money will go towards extending the snow leopard enclosure.

Each participant received a medal and certificate at the end of the walk.

Zoo Director Derek Grove said: "It was a fantastic day; the sun shone and the zoo was full of people wearing colourful onesies of all varieties of animal species as they tackled a 5km walk around the 40 acre site."

All funds received for the event will be spent on Dudley Zoo's latest conservation project to extend the snow leopard's home, which will include a new viewing area and platform.

Mr Grove added: "This is the third time we've held this fundraising event and it's grown year-on-year. We expect to have raised thousands of pounds in aid of the snow leopard enclosure, which we hope to complete by next year."

One of the zoo's three snow leopards

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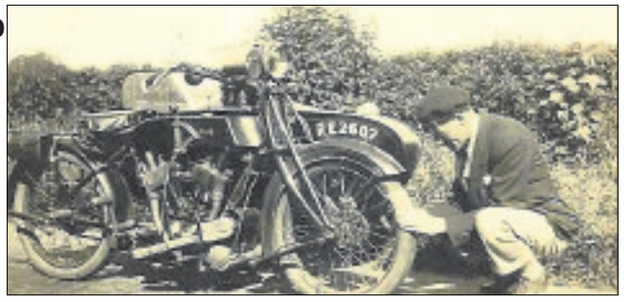

AJS tester repairing a puncture

The AJS workshop at the Isle of Man TT races

AJS testers outside a pub at Woodhall Spa

AJS motorcycle in Black Country Living Museum

AJS tester on the London Road in Lincolnshire

Testing time as Great Depression took its toll

SEVENTY five years ago A J Stevens & Co folded, one of the most illustrious names in Wolverhampton's long engineering history.

The company had been founded by the Stevens Brothers, George, Harry, Jack and Joe jnr.

They had all started out working for their father's company, making parts for locks, bicycles and other products.

Expand

But in 1899 an American petrol engine was bought for the works, and Harry quickly decided that he could make something better himself, and he did.

Stevens Bros engines were soon in demand for motor-cycle manufacturers like Clyno, and in 1909 the brothers set up on their own in Retreat Street, making motor-cycles, financed by the money Harry received for designing

MEMORY LANE

BY Alec Brew

the first Sunbeam motor-cycle. In 1914 the operation became a public company and they chose the name AJS, Jack's initials, he being the only brother with two Christian names.

They soon needed to expand and bought the Graiseley Hill Estate just over the road, where a large factory sprang up. They encouraged Clyno to move from Northampton into the old Retreat Street property.

AJS motor-cycles became regular TT winners on the Isle of Man and the company prospered, as many as 600 bikes being built every week.

They diversified into making radios, the wireless factory being in Lower Walsall Street, and then Charles Hayward (Sir Jack's dad) secured contracts for them to build the bodies for Clyno cars , which were now in production in Pelham Street.

Soon AJS were making their own cars and light commercial vehicles, but the Great Depression was to have a devastating effect on the company.

The wireless business, which had moved to Stewart Street was the first to go, and then, in 1931, the company closed, though all creditors were paid up.

Invest

The AJS name was bought by Matchless Motor-cycles, and the Stevens Bros carried on making light vans for a while, but the roar of AJS testers setting off down the Penn Road was no longer heard.

Charles Hayward who had set up the Electric & General Engineering Trust to invest in engineering companies, and had bought the aircraft department from Boulton & Paul Ltd of Norwich, insisted that the new company, to be named Boulton Paul Aircraft, build its new factory in Wolverhampton, because he so regretted the loss of jobs caused by the folding of his erstwhile employer, AJS.

AJS testers on Penn Common

AJS car in the Black Country Living Museum

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Rescued Lucy thanks air ambulance

Lucy Dawkins and dad Martin present a cheque for £10,300 to the Air Ambulance Service at East Midlands Airport

A WOMAN who suffered serious head injuries in a car crash has raised more than £10,000 for the Air Ambulance Service – far surpassing her original target of £4,000.

Lucy Dawkins, aged 26, from Blakedown, near Hagley, in 2013 was rescued from the scene of the crash on the M42 in Tamworth.

She was taken to Coventry Walsgrave Hospital by air ambulance where she was treated for a fractured skull.

Lucy and her family, father Martin and mother Karen, wanted to show their appreciation for the life-saving work of the air ambulance and embarked upon an extensive fundraising campaign.

It included Lucy, who is a PE teacher at Haybridge School in Hagley, running in the London Marathon, Martin undertaking a 24-hour spinathon and the family organising a three-course meal for 60 guests.

Headquarters

The Dawkins family visited air ambulance headquarters at East Midlands Airport to present a cheque for £10,300 to fundraising co-ordinator Charlotte Marson.

They were accompanied by Kyle Warman, a manager of Santandar bank, which also made a financial contribution

Martin Dawkins, who works at Loughborough University Sports Development Centre, said: "We will be always grateful to the Air Ambulance Service, whose prompt actions may have saved our daughter's life.

"We are delighted to be able to make a contribution for this valuable service to the local community that receives no Government funding and operates its life-saving service entirely from sponsorship and charity donations.

Midlands Air Ambulance operates three air ambulances serving the West Midlands and neighbouring counties.

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500 cars seized as police nab tax dodgers

ALMOST 500 cars have been seized by police in the Black Country during 12 months after motorists were found flouting the law by not having road tax.

More than six times the number of vehicles were taken off the streets last year than in 2012, figures released through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request reveal. It comes after police launched a crackdown aimed specifically at overseas drivers who avoid registering and licensing their cars in the UK.

Police captured a total of 463 cars in 2015 with 222 of them discovered in Sandwell alone. There were also 135 removed from streets in Wolverhampton, 60 in Dudley and 46 in Walsall. In 2012, there were 76 seized across the Black Country.

Deb Edmonds, spokeswoman for West Midlands Police, said: "The increase is mostly due to Operation Jessica which has targeted foreign cars. There will be some local ones included in those figures."

New grounds for optimism at an ambitious club

A FOOTBALL club wants to renovate the old Bilston United ground, building new changing rooms and creating a multi-sport venue.

Straits FC has taken on the lease of the newly-named Rooker Park on Rooker Avenue in Parkfields, Wolverhampton, and in a five-year business plan, has submitted proposals for a function room.

The plans are the brainchild of ambitious chairman Steve Ball, who hopes to attract top young players to the club as well as those from other sporting disciplines who might want to use the venue.

He said: "The grass has been cut and the fencing has been done by the council. It's already better than 90 per cent of the park pitches in Wolverhampton and it's been lying unused since Bilston United were there.

"We've built a lot of stuff ourselves, we've put a new car park down which is now open. We're still getting people walking dogs and leaving dog mess so the next phase is to secure the area.

Coach

"We're a club that has been well-respected over the years for playing good football."

He added: "We want to make it a multi-sport community centre. We're hoping to have a track going around the outside that could be used for walking clubs or running clubs.

"We're an all ages football club. We want to have boys', girls', men's and women's sides.

"I used to coach at semi professional level. I've also recruited a Cameroonian coach called Develous Ebot, who used to play for Legia Warsaw and Cameroon under 21s. He's highly qualified, so we have a good calibre of coaching staff. We are still looking for more though."

The club, which was founded in 2010, had no teams running last season after Steve's father passed away suddenly from cancer, which sent shockwaves around the club.

But training for all age groups from under sevens upwards is running every Saturday morning at the ground.

Mr Ball added: "We're still looking for new players. We're also looking for £4,000 to help with security and fencing, and for a ground sponsor."

Call Steve Ball on 07542359020.

Never forget this birthday

Sutton and Five tuck into the birthday cake at West Midland Safari Park

LOOK who has reached the 'terrible twos' – it's baby African elephant Sutton, who enjoyed a birthday cake made up of specially-formulated elephant feed, fortified with vitamins and minerals

The youngster, who is named after inspirational Staffordshire teenager Stephen Sutton, was given the treat by keepers at West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, to mark his milestone.

Weighing more than 120st, the two-year-old stands at almost 4ft tall to the shoulder and his tusks have now started to grow.

His keepers decided that there was only one birthday present Sutton would really appreciate this year — a cake made from elephant feed, bread and fruit.

The drafted in KD9 beaver scout section, from Kidderminster, to help and within half an hour the cake was ready to be devoured by Sutton and his mother, Five.

It didn't last long, with the animals using their powerful trunks to pick it apart and toss the tasty morsels into their mouths.

Head keeper of elephants, Andy Plumb said, "It's been a real pleasure watching Sutton grow and progress over the last two years."

More invasions in Black Country by traveller groups

ILLEGAL traveller and gipsy sites in the Black Country has increased dramatically in the last two years, according to a new report.

The Walsall borough saw the greatest increase in sites, with 69 in 2015 in comparison to 15 sites in 2014.

A camp on Bescot Retail Park, close to Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium emerged in November 2013, as well an encampment in Warley Woods meadow near the Abbey Road entrance to the park.

Figures show that since 2015 the number of illegal encampments in Wolverhampton has almost doubled, from 10 in 2014 to 19 in 2015.

In Wolverhampton, travellers moved onto Faulkland Street car park, just off the Wolverhampton Ring Road, in 2012 and in 2014.

Cinema

In Dudley, the figure rose from 15 in 2014 to 29 in 2015 and in Sandwell the number of traveller sites increased by 10 from 30 in 2014 to 40 sites in 2015.

In March this year 40 caravans were for a while taking up part of the car park at Showcase Cinema, at Castle Gate, Dudley.

Hillsborough 'cover-up' claims are investigated

MORE than 250 former West Midlands Police officers and staff have been contacted over allegations the force was part of a cover-up over the Hillsborough Disaster in 1989.

The police watchdog has taken 161 statements from ex-West Midlands personnel as part of its huge investigation into the tragedy, which saw 96 Liverpool fans killed at Sheffield Wednesday's ground during an FA Cup semi final with Nottingham Forest

During the aftermath of the tragedy, in which fans were crushed, West Midlands Police was called in to investigate the disaster and role of South Yorkshire Police. At the time many blamed fans but police errors have been uncovered and the long-running inquest has since found that all 96 fans were unlawfully killed.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission revealed that 19 people from the force declined to assist its inquiry, a further nine were unable to help on health grounds while 27 people the watchdog wished to speak had since died.

It is believed around five former officers are under individual investigation.

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See Page 25

Costa Del theatre

Antony Costa – Page 25

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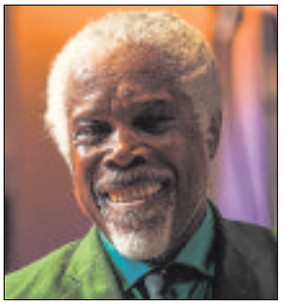
www.academy-music-group.co.uk

Brian Wilson: Pet Sounds

Tuesday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
It will be a full house when Beach Boys legend Brian Wilson performs the classic Pet Sounds album to mark its 50th anniversary, joined by former bandmate Al Jardine.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Billy Ocean



Friday, 7.30pm
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Beans On Toast

Saturday, 8pm
The Station, Cannock
Anarchic punk-folk from singer-songwriter Beans on Toast, who has released seven albums, most recently Rolling Up The Hill recorded in Kansas with Truckstop Honeymoon.
See **www.beansontoastmusic.com**

ROCK & POP

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Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

September Girls
Tue at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Catapult Club Feat. Superficials
Tomorrow at 6.30pm - 11pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Alt/Indie Alldayer
Sun at 3pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Yuck
Tue at 8.30pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Brian Wilson Presents Pet Sounds
Tue at 8pm - 10pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Frankly Sinatra: Frank Sinatra Tribute
Sun at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Emma Pollock
Wed at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Bob Fox
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Roxy Magic: Roxy Music Tribute
Tonight at 7pm, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Everybody Looks Famous
Tue at 6pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Snake Oil & Harmony: Dan Reed & Danny Vaughn
Wed at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Livewire: AC/DC Tribute
Tonight at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Jam DRC
Thu at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Sessions – A Live Re-Staging Of The Beatles At Abbey Road Studios
Tonight at 8pm - 10.30pm,
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Manic Street Preachers
Tomorrow at 6pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Amped
Tomorrow at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Membranes
Tomorrow at 7pm,
The Flapper, Birmingham,
B1 2NU.
Call 0121 236 2421

Lee Memphis King: One Night Of Elvis
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Buddy Holly And The Cricketers
Sun at 7.30pm, £17.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Andy Jordan
Tonight at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Landscapes
Wed at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Magnum
Thu at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Billy Ocean
Tonight at 7.30pm
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 429212

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Jazzlines Free gigs: Neil Yates
Tonight at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Ken Vandermark & Nate Wooley Duo
Wed at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Terry Clarke And Friends
Tomorrow at 4pm - 8pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Eric Bibb & Band
Mon at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Jocelyn Brown & Kenny Thomas
Tomorrow at 8pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

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Kate Rusby
Tomorrow at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

False Lights
Sun at 8pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

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Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Andy Black
Tomorrow at 6pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain: Explores The Cecil Sharp Songbook
Sun at 3pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Maya Youssef
Tomorrow at 6pm - 7.30pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Jason Rebello
Wed at 8pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Calan
Tue at 8pm, £12.50
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

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Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

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Hal Cruttenden: Straight Outta Cruttenden
Tomorrow at 8pm,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

Gyles Brandreth: Word Power!
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Lichfield Garrick, Castle Dyke,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

James Veitch: Dot Con
Wed at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Shazia Mirza: The Kardashians Made Me Do It
Tomorrow at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
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Save The Last Dance For Me
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
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Birmingham Royal Ballet: Shakespeare Midscale Tour
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Menopause The Musical
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
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Call 01527 65203

Thoroughly Modern Millie
Thu at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

CWAGMS: The Witches Of Eastwick
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
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Call 01543 578762

Club Cairo
Tonight at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
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Grumpy Old Women: 50 Shades of Beige
Tonight at 8pm, Tomorrow at 8pm,
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ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

The Diary Of A Hounslow Girl
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Drum, Aston on Carrant,
Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

The Mousetrap
Tonight at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
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SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

The Naked Truth
Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Time To Shine
Tonight at 5pm, Sun at 5pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Invincible
Tue at 7.45pm - 10.05pm, Wed at 7.45pm - 10.05pm, Thu at 7.45pm - 10.05pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

End Of The Rainbow
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick,
Castle Dyke,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Made Up
Tomorrow at 8pm, Mon at 8pm,
Tue at 8pm, Wed at 8pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

King Lear
Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Dreamcoat Joe – boy now beefcake

"IT'S sometimes hard to say no to a burger", admits X Factor winner Joe McElderry, who looks in great shape for his starring role in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Well if you're going to be stripping down to a loincloth every night a buff body is surely a prerequisite?

Although he posed topless for Gay Times Magazine earlier this year, revealing his toned torso in front of a packed audience was never on Joe's bucket list.

"It's something that takes a bit of getting used to," laughs the singer.

"I certainly didn't imagine I would be taking my top off in front of a theatre full of people each night."

Little Joe McElderry, who stole hearts when he won X Factor in 2009, has transformed from boy to beefcake. The sweet-faced 18-year-old is now 24 and looking every inch the chiselled heartthrob.

To prepare for his lead part in Joseph, which visits Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week, Joe really upped the ante in the gym.

"I exercise on a daily basis anyway but I made my workouts a bit harder, a bit tougher. I love exercising, I find it really addictive," he says

Joseph is the star's first major theatrical role and he's been getting rave reviews. That colourful coat has been donned previously by Jason Donovan, Donny Osmond, Lee Mead and Phillip Schofield, so how has Joe made the character his own?

"Well we all have very different voices. I really wanted to make it my own. I suppose I bring a kind of pop element to it. When you're doing a concert you build on the audience reaction and participation but with something like Joseph you are playing a character. You can't break out of that, it's stricter but very enjoyable."

We're going to be seeing a lot of Joe in Wolverhampton. As well as Joseph, on from Tuesday to Saturday, he will be starring as Aladdin in the Grand's panto. "I can't get enough of Wolverhampton this year," he chortles.

For tickets call 01902 429212 or see www.grandtheatre.co.uk

A buff Joe McElderry plays the Biblical Joseph in Rice and Lloyd Webber's musical

Last dance for Antony

ANOTHER member of the chart-topping group Blue has made the transition from pop singer to musical theatre actor.

Blue star Duncan James was on stage in Wolverhampton last week, cavorting with drag queens in Priscilla Queen of the Desert at the Grand – and now band mate Antony Costa will be on the boards in Birmingham in theatre mogul Bill Kenwright's latest show celebrating the sounds of the 1960s.

Save The Last Dance For Me has been written by Birds Of A Feather duo Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran and features songs penned by the team of Doc Pomus and Mort Schuman, including A Teenager in Love, Can't Get Used to Losing You, His Latest Flame and Suspicion. It tells the story of two sisters on holiday during the summer of '63 who encounter romance at an American air force base dance hall.

Antony, who previously appeared in Blood Brothers and Boogie Nights, plays airman Milton. He says: "I got involved with the show because I really loved the music and the script. Being involved in the music industry for so long I must admit I get drawn to musicals for the songs. Not only is it a great jukebox feel-good show, it's got a great storyline.

"I do love wearing the uniform in the show! If I were to choose one of the Armed Forces to work for it would have to be the air force. I've always fancied myself as a bit of a Tom Cruise in Top Gun!"

Does he think there will ever be a musical about Blue? "Who knows? It would have to be All Rise, wouldn't it? Set in a courtroom or something," he quips.

Save The Last Dance For Me is at the New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Rock bands team up for Academy gig

GIG of the week is a double bill in Birmingham featuring Irish surf/psych rockers September Girls with 'next big thing' Telegram. They will be sharing the bill at Birmingham's O2 Academy 3 on Tuesday. London-based Telegram released their debut album, Operator, this year and Dublin's September Girls recently released their latest album, Age of Indignation.

Other choice gigs include Travis at the O2 Academy tonight (Thu), while that venue has Mike Peters' reappraisal of The Alarm's Strength album on Sunday. US outfit Transviolet are at the Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, on Sunday, where Eagulls dare on Tuesday.

Culture clash in sharp new satire

TORBEN Bett's class war comedy Invincible is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre as part of its first national tour.

The play about a London family who clash with neighbours in a northern town will feature Walsall actor Graeme Brookes and Kerry Bennett from TV's Casualty. It is at the Rep's Studio from Tuesday to Saturday.

There is a world premiere at Rep venue The Door when Brum-based touring theatre group present Made Up, a play about friendship between a movie star and her make-up artist. Written and directed by James Yarker, it's on from Saturday to Saturday, May 21.

At the double for pub blues sessions

A BUSY weekend for blues fans is on the way when one of the Midlands' best sessions doubles up at two Wolverhampton pubs.

The Room 4 The Blues session, run by Tim Jenks, will be taking place at the Claregate pub tomorrow (Friday) from 8pm and at the Dog And Doublet in North Street on Sunday, at 4pm.

Both sessions are free to attend and will feature Tim's band plus guest musicians.

Tim said: "We never know what is going to happen at Room 4 The Blues. Any musicians that want to have a jam are more than welcome to join us."

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CHOICE

Graham Norton

Eurovision Song Contest 2016
(BBC1, 8pm)
Graham Norton commentates on the 61st musical extravaganza from Sweden, who won last year with Heroes by Mans Zelmerlow. He'll be back this year, co-hosting tonight's show from the Stockholm's Globe Arena with Petra Mede. All eyes with be on Joe and Jake, who are aiming to become the first UK winners since 1997 with their song You're Not Alone. However, they are likely to face stiff competition from the 25 other countries, including Ireland's entry Nicky Byrne with his song Sunshine - that's assuming the former Westlife star has made it through last Thursday's semi-final - and the host nation's 17-year-old Frans with his upbeat ballad If I Were Sorry.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** The Brownlees: An Olympic Story. **1.30** Live Women's FA Cup Final. Arsenal v Chelsea (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.20** Flog It! (R) **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Can't Touch This. Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo present the game show in which 16 contestants are challenged to battle their way through obstacle course filled with prizes they must touch to claim.

6.20 Pointless Celebrities. New series. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman give another selection of famous faces a chance to take part in the unorthodox quiz show . This time, the pair invite past entrants in the Eurovision Song Contest to form teams and display their general knowledge, ahead the grand final of the 2016 contest, which takes place later this evening. Former winners Johnny Logan and Linda Martin join forces, while Natalie Power and Russ Spencer of ill-fated 2007 UK entry Scooch team up, Jenny Frost and Sophie McDonnell of Britain's 1998 representatives Precious form a new double-act, while certain members of legendary Eurovision success story Bucks Fizz also put their brains to the test.

7.10 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. New series. Five contestants answer questions to scoop a cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace pushing the button.

8.00 Eurovision Song Contest 2016. Graham Norton commentates on the musical extravaganza from the Globe Arena in Stockholm, Sweden, where Joe and Jake are flying the flag for the UK with You're Not Alone. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

11.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle. Including a clip from The Ice Cream Man Cometh episode of That Peter Kay Thing. Plus, and Brian Potter and Andy Pipkin sing I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)†accompanied by an all-star cast. (R)

12.20 Film: Buster. (1988) **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Film: The Westerner. (1940) **8.15 Film:** A Walk in the Sun. (1945) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **1.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.05** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.05** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.50** The Hairy Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain. (R) **4.20** Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. (R) **5.20** This Week's World.

6.00 Gardeners' World. (R)

6.30 Attenborough's Passion Project: Lost Worlds, Vanished Lives. The third programmes from David Attenborough's back catalogue takes the form of extracts from a 1989 series in which he used fossils to detail the lives of extinct creatures.

7.30 Attenborough's Passion Project: Darwin's Tree of Life. David Attenborough argues that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution is now more important than ever, revealing how the scientist developed his ground-breaking ideas.

8.30 Dad's Army. Classic comedy with the Home Guard. (R)

9.00 The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses – Henry VI Part II. Ben Power and Dominic Cooke's adaptation of Shakespeare's Henriad continues with the second part of Henry VI. The Wars of the Roses are well under way, and following their defeat at the battle of St Albans, the Lancastrians are forced to grant concessions to the Yorkists. King Henry negotiates to keep the crown for his lifetime, but disinherits his heir Prince Edward, much to the horror of his imperious wife Margaret. Determined to see her son on the throne, Margaret mounts a brutal assault on Plantagenet's family, decimating his dynasty, but failing to eliminate his three elder sons, Edward, George and Richard. In response, the York boys swear to avenge the murder of their father and younger brother, seeking the aid of the duplicitous Duke of Warwick as they pitch England back into bloody civil war.

11.05 Film: Margin Call. (2011) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Paul Bettany.

12.45 Film: The Silence. (2010) Thriller, starring Ulrich Thomsen. **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA; **12.20** ITV News; Weather.; **12.24** Regional Programme. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** BBQ Champ. (R) **2.30 Film:** Agent Cody Banks. (2003) **4.30** The Wine Show. **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! Bounces Back! Harry Hill narrates another 60-minute special edition of the comical clip show, applying his unique brand of silly, satirical commentary to a selection of hilarious hijinks captured on video by viewers at home.

7.00 Bang on the Money. Holiday camp entertainers The Hi-De-His from Somerset and The Wolf Pack from Wolverhampton aim to hit a specific target number "bang on" in physical and mental challenges.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. The nationwide talent show reaches the penultimate round of auditions, as Ant and Dec introduce another selection of would-be stars to judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon. Unless he finally gave in to temptation last week, Simon remains the only judge who has yet to send an act straight through to the semi-finals by pressing his Golden Buzzer. Will this week's crop of auditionees contain the perfect performance to entice him into hitting the button?

9.15 Play to the Whistle. Boxer David Haye, Dragons' Den star Peter Jones and comedienne Sara Pascoe join team captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh for the sports-themed comedy panel show.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: The Dark Knight. (2008) Batman and his allies are pushed to their limits as criminal mastermind the Joker plunges Gotham into anarchy. Comic-book thriller sequel, with Christian Bale.

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.30** British Rally Championship. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** The Morning Line. **9.55** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **11.05** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the battle for pole position (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Newmarket. **4.40** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.40** Homes by the Med.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs. After recovering from a life-threatening brain haemorrhage, Bram Vis, his wife Lisa and their two children want to build a house for sharing on a seaside plot on the Isle of Wight. Kevin McCloud follows the family's progress as they build an ambitious home complete with entertaining spaces and a swimming pool. However, the sheer scale of their project soon becomes clear when their original £850k budget spirals out of control. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales conclude the series by travelling down the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal, accompanied by Tim's daughter and her family. The couple revisit places that hold fond memories from the early stages of their relationship, as well as looking back on the beginnings of their acting careers and putting on a performance in the church where Shakespeare is buried. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 Film: X-Men: First Class. (2011) Telepathic mutant Charles Xavier forms the first generation of the superhero team in the 1960s. Their battle with a Nazi war criminal manipulating the world toward nuclear war gradually drives a wedge between Xavier and his ally Magneto, leading them to become deadly enemies. Superhero adventure prequel, starring James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender.

11.35 Film: GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra. (2009) Action adventure, with Channing Tatum and Sienna Miller.

1.50 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Supershoppers. (R) **4.50** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R) **5.45** Will & Grace. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live . **11.40** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Ben face a challenging eviction in London, where a vulnerable tenant in rent arrears has barricaded her front door, and the agents receive a tirade of abuse. Meanwhile, Brian and Del chase a debt of nearly £2,000 in Surrey, before trying to recover almost £3,000 in Northamptonshire. Finally, Steve and Ru head to Portsmouth to evict a young family for a landlord who wants her property back. (R)

7.10 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. The team is called to a high school on a marine base, where a pupil has taken his classmates hostage and is threatening to detonate a bomb strapped to his chest. Mark Harmon stars. (R)

8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles. Agents G Callen and Sam Hanna investigate after a naval officer is killed during an LAPD shootout, with two other men who died in the gun battle being identified as members of a Mexican drug cartel. Spin-off drama following the exploits of the Los Angeles-based Office of Special Projects, an elite NCIS division specialising in undercover assignments. (R)

9.00 NCIS. American social worker Sarah Goode is taken hostage by militants in northern Syria, and thanks to the efforts of the Navy Seals, is eventually returned home unharmed. Evidence from the incident suggests US citizen Kyle Nasry was connected to kidnapping, but when the agents traces Nasry to a rally held by a controversial imam, they are surprised to find Sarah among the attendees. Meanwhile, DiNozzo finally takes his relationship with Zoe Keates public – surprising none of his colleagues.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Live World Championship Boxing. Lee Haskins v Ivan Morales.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Tube: Going Underground. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Doris Day: Virgin Territory **8.00** Venice **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance **11.30** Blues at the BBC **12.30** BBC Four Sessions: Bonnie Raitt **1.30** Blues America **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.00 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Catchphrase **2.05** Scorpion **3.05 Film:** The Scorpion King (2002) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** The Scorpion King (2002) **4.50 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **6.55 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.35** The Cleveland Show **2.30** @ elevenish **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.00 Film: The Mirror Crack'd (1980) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** The Mirror Crack'd (1980) **1.15 Film:** Columbo: Lovely but Lethal (1973) **2.50** Foyle's War **4.55** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.05** Trial & Retribution **1.05** Northern Lights **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 Pawn Stars **1.45** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **3.15 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **5.45 Film:** Diamonds Are Forever (1971) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05 Film:** Diamonds Are Forever (1971) **8.10 Film:** Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **10.00 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **12.15 Film:** Death Wish 3 (1985) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20 Film:** Death Wish 3 (1985) **2.20** Hogan's Heroes **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.30 Film:** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory: Guest Stars **11.00** The Inbetweeners **2.15** Gogglebox **3.10** Tattoo Fixers **4.00** The Inbetweeners

Film4
11.00 Winchester '73 (1950) **1.00** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **2.50** The Three Stooges (2012) **4.40** The Dark Crystal (1982) **6.25** Battleship (2012) **9.00** The King's Speech (2010) **11.20** Stoker (2013) **1.20** The Runaways (2010) **3.30** Close

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CHOICE

Victoria Wood

Let's Do It: A Tribute to Victoria Wood (ITV, 7.30pm)

Last month, the celebrity world and viewers alike were rocked by the death of Victoria Wood, the writer, singer and comedian who had become one of the key figures in British entertainment. Here, famous fans including Lenny Henry, Peter Kay and Alison Steadman, as well as friends and colleagues Celia Imrie, Michael Ball, David Threlfall and Anne Reid, pay tribute.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Pentecost 2016. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Nature's Epic Journeys. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Final Score. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile Spring Special. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 Undercover. Maya's battle to clear Rudy's name is left in tatters after the death of a key witness, but she resolves to make one last stand in her fight to change the justice system for the better. However, when she finds the final piece of information that connects the two miscarriages of justice, it has devastating personal consequences. Nick pursues a last chance of redemption by helping Julia and Brady expose the powers behind the conspiracy, as he and Maya try to decide what the future holds for their family. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the final day of the Premier League season, including Chelsea v Leicester City and Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur. This top-flight campaign has hugely unpredictable and the concluding day could still offer some twists and turns in deciding the final places. Plus, action from Arsenal v Aston Villa, Everton v Norwich City, Manchester United v Bournemouth, Southampton v Crystal Palace, Stoke City v West Ham United, Swansea City v Manchester City, Watford v Sunderland and West Bromwich Albion v Liverpool.

12.10 Film: Texas Rangers. (2001) Western, starring James Van Der Beek and Dylan McDermott. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Great Chelsea Garden Challenge. (R) **7.00** This Farming Life. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00** Athletics: Diamond League Shanghai Highlights. **2.00** Triathlon World Series: Yokohama Highlights. **3.30** Diving. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Choose the Right Puppy for You. Part one of two. Kate Humble presents a guide to buying a dog, featuring advice from experts on how to pick one that best suits prospective owners' lifestyles and home environments. Behaviourist Louise Glazebrook is on hand to help people find the perfect puppy for them – including a family who have never had a dog before and have no idea where to start, as well as a flight attendant who is determined a big dog is right for him. (R)

7.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The flyers attend the UK's largest air show, where the Red Arrows struggle to cope with the weather and a group of pilots reenact a Second World War 18-plane launch. (R)

8.00 Burma's Secret Jungle War with Joe Simpson. Civil unrest during a Burmese election campaign halts the mountaineer's progress, but he eventually makes it to the battlefields where his father fought during the Second World War.

9.00 Louis Theroux: A Different Brain. The reporter meets people recovering from brain injuries and the staff who treat them, discovering the challenges they face in rebuilding their lives and personalities.

10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Jo Brand, Phill Jupitus and Alan Davies take part as host Stephen Fry asks a range of fiendish questions about lenses, lungs and legs. (R)

10.40 Stupid Man, Smart Phone.

11.30 Film: Rescue Dawn. (2006) A fighter pilot leads a break-out from a prison camp and makes a desperate escape through the jungle. Werner Herzog's Vietnam War drama, starring Christian Bale and Steve Zahn.

1.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two. **5.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.05** ITV News; Weather. **12.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **1.45** Fierce. (R) **2.45** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.00 Film:** Uncle Buck. (1989) Family comedy, starring John Candy.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Celebrity contestants Michael Parr, Alex Scott, Jennifer Metcalfe and Bill Turnbull answer questions and work as a team to take on the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity.

7.30 Let's Do It: A Tribute to Victoria Wood. Last month, the celebrity world and viewers alike were rocked by the death of Victoria Wood, the writer, singer and comedian who had become one of the key figures in British entertainment. Here, famous fans including Lenny Henry, Peter Kay and Alison Steadman, as well as friends and colleagues Celia Imrie, Michael Ball, David Threlfall and Anne Reid, pay tribute.

8.35 The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration. Ant and Dec present a star-studded event celebrating the Queen's life from the Grounds of Windsor Castle, featuring archive footage exploring the key moments of her reign, and displays by more than 1500 performers and 900 horses, including members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Chilean Huasos, Azerbaijani horses and riders and Military and Commonwealth pipers. With appearances by Helen Mirren, Shirley Bassey, Kylie Minogue, Andrea Bocelli, Gary Barlow, Damian Lewis, Jess Glynne, Imelda Staunton, Jim Carter, Alfie Boe, James Blunt, Katherine Jenkins, Beverley Knight, Jennifer Saunders, Alan Titchmarsh and Martin Clunes.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.25 Pop Gold. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the fifth round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.35 Film:** Pocahontas. (1995) Disney animated drama. **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.30** World's Weirdest Homes. (R)

7.00 Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. The Grand Designs presenter sets out on a mission to find out if a simpler existence really can make people happier, beginning by travelling to a desert island in the south Pacific archipelago of Tonga to meet a British family who have quit the rat race. Karyn, Boris and their three children live in an off-grid property, with no fresh water or electricity and face regular threats from hurricanes and tsunamis. Kevin finds out how they cope with these challenges and the psychological trials of having just one another for company. (R)

8.00 Paul Merton's Secret Stations. The comedian searches for the hidden remains of china clay mines in Luxulyan, Cornwall, and visits a training site for trench warfare on the Pembrokeshire coast. He also discovers a Manchester station that only gets one train a week, and makes a final trip on the West Highland Line to a stop that is 10 miles from the nearest road. Last in the series.

9.00 Indian Summers. While Alice and Charlie prepare to leave India for good, Ralph and Aafrin make decisions about their careers. As Chotipool goes under the hammer, Cynthia is locked in a bidding war with the Sood family, but it is a fight she cannot afford. However, when violence erupts in the plains, several of the residents' lives are place in danger. Final episode of the 1930s-set drama, starring Julie Walters, Henry Lloyd-Hughes, Jemima West, Craig Parkinson and Amber Rose Revah. Last in the series.

10.00 Gogglebox. (R)

11.00 Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Highlights.

12.10 Film: The Ghost. (2010) **2.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.55** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.25** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **12.30 Film:** Primates of the Caribbean. (2012) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Jason J Lewis. **2.00 Film:** Surf's Up. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. **3.35 Film:** Beverly Hills Chihuahua. (2008) Comedy, with the voice of Drew Barrymore. **5.15 Film:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2. (2013) Premiere. Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Bill Hader.

7.00 Penguin A&E with Lorraine Kelly. Cameras follow the presenter and staff at South Africa's penguin emergency department, including vet Natasha who is faced with a patient with a fish hook in its stomach. (R)

8.00 Beaver Las Vegas: Saving The Strip. Documentary charting the efforts of a small team of eco-engineers who hope to harness and adapt the methods of beavers to prevent water shortages in North America's western states. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: 21 Jump Street. (2012) Cops Schmidt and Jenko hated each other when they were at school together, but have grown up to become friends. They are forced to relive the horrors of their adolescence when their captain decides their youthful appearance makes them the perfect undercover agents to crack a high-school drug ring. Comedy inspired by the 1980s TV series, with Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Edited for language.

11.10 Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) An insecure superhero is outraged at being dumped by her boyfriend, and in revenge uses her powers to make his life a misery. Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson.

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Young Musician 2016 Grand Final **9.15** The Silk Road **10.15** Cleopatra: Portrait of a Killer **11.15** Guts: The Strange and Wonderful World of the Human Stomach **12.15** Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **1.15** Horizon: Are We Still Evolving? **2.15** The Silk Road **3.15** Redefining Juliet **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.45 Catchphrase **1.30** The Hot Desk: Nathan Sykes **1.45 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **3.30 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.35** Britain's Got Talent **6.55** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **10.10** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **1.10** The Cleveland Show **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.40 Foyle's War **2.40 Film:** Columbo: Double Exposure (1973) **4.20 Film:** Calamity Jane (1953) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30 Film:** Calamity Jane (1953) **6.30** Richard Wilson on the Road **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Ghostboat **11.35 Film:** Out of Sight (1998) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** Out of Sight (1998) **1.55** Blue Murder **2.45** May the Best House Win **4.30** On the Buses **5.20** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

3.30 Film: Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **4.20 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **6.50** The Wine Show **7.55** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Collateral Damage (2002) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Collateral Damage (2002) **11.10 Film:** Crank (2006) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Crank (2006) **1.00** River Monsters **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

1.35 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **4.00 Film:** Leap Year (2010) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** The 100 **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00** Rush Hour **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4

1.00 Casper (1995) **3.00** Porridge (1979) **4.50** St Trinian's (2007) **6.50** X-Men (2000) **8.55** X-Men: Apocalypse Interview Special **9.00** Ted (2012) **11.05** Unfaithful (2002) **1.30** 127 Hours (2010)

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Die Another Day, ITV, 11.10pm
James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry, Toby Stephens, Judi Dench and John Cleese. (2002)

TUESDAY
Rosamunde Pilcher's Summer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman returns to her ex-husband's stately home after years away in a bid to solve the riddle of her daughter's suicide. But as romance blossoms with one member of the household, the schemes of the master of the house threaten everyone's happiness. Romantic drama, starring Senta Berger, Michael York, Tom Conti and Frank Finlay. (2008)

WEDNESDAY
Love Happens, Channel 4, 1.25am
A self-help guru goes on a lecture tour after his wife's death, offering advice on how to cope with grief. However, when he falls in love he begins to realise he has yet to confront his own loss. Romantic drama, starring Aaron Eckhart and Jennifer Aniston. (2009)

The Rum Diary, Friday, Channel 4, 12.30am

THURSDAY
False Pretences, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman's life is left in tatters when her wealthy husband kills himself after being conned out of millions by his best friend. Seeking to escape the painful memories, she leaves town and takes a job in a diner – where she plots to get revenge on the man she blames for her husband's suicide. Thriller, starring Peta Wilson and Stewart Bick. (2004)

FRIDAY
The Rum Diary, Channel 4, 12.30am
A New York journalist tires of America in the early 1960s, and relocates to Puerto Rico, where he works for a local paper and throws himself into the decadent local lifestyle. His obsession with a woman who has also arrived from the States leads to him getting mixed up in the corrupt dealings of her property tycoon fiance. Comedy drama based on Hunter S Thompson's novel, starring Johnny Depp. (2011)

Finding life as a nanny is not all child's play

For those who were brought up during the 1980s, it doesn't seem like that long ago.

However, it was a different world, one in which children felt self to play out after school with their mates, a maximum of four TV channels existed, videos were only just getting off the ground, the internet was unheard of and shoulder pads were all the rage.

Nina Stibbe was just making her way into the world at that time. In 1982, she turned 20 and decided to make the big move from her family home in Leicester to the bright lights of London – or Camden, at least.

Nina landed a job as the nanny to two lively young boys, brothers Joe and Max, the offspring of film and TV director Stephen Frears and his former wife Mary-Kay Wilmers, the American-born co-founder of the London Review of Books; it was into Wilmers' household that she moved.

Around 30 years later, Stibbes compiled a book about her experiences of living there, a time that brought her into contact with such glitterati as Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller, both of whom were neighbours – at the time, she had an inkling they were famous, but had no idea what for.

The book, Love, Nina: Despatches from Family Life, features the letters she wrote to her sister about her 'glamorous' new life, and became an instant hit, winning the Non-fiction Book of the Year category at the prestigious National Book Awards in 2014.

Now it's been turned into a five-part drama by Nick Hornby – his first project for the small screen – who fell in love with the story when the tome was first published.

"Nina Stibbe's book Love, Nina has already established itself as a much-loved piece of comic writing and I love it," says Hornby.

"Her observations and worldview were the inspiration for a show that we think captures the same spirit. It's been a joy to write and we're thrilled with the quality of our cast."

Rather than being a straight adaptation, Hornby has taken the essence of the story and turned it into a fictionalised tale, with names changed and situations altered. However, it still retains the flavour of Stibbe's experiences and offers an insight into life on a cultured corner of north London during the 1980s.

It has an excellent cast too, headed by Helena Bonham Carter. She isn't known for taking on serial TV dramas, but was clearly impressed by the script; filming probably allowed her to stay close to her family home in London too.

The opening episode introduces us to Nina, played by Faye Marsay, when she is interviewed by George (Bonham Carter) for the position of nanny at her home in Gloucester Crescent.

It's there that she meets the two boys, Max and Joe, who will become the centre of her universe over the coming months, although it soon becomes clear that Nina may have exaggerated her skills as a help around the home…

Jason Watkins, Ethan Rouse, Harry Webster and Josh McGuire are among the supporting cast.

Faye Marsay stars in Love, Nina, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Great British Sewing Bee
BBC2, 9pm
A few dedicated fans were beginning to wonder if this much-loved show had been axed – its winner has usually been crowned by this point in the year. But all good things come to those who wait, and so Claudia Winkleman takes charge of the fourth series of the amateur sewing competition. Patrick Grant also returns as a judge, but his usual cohort, May Martin, won't be joining him – she's been replaced by Esme Young, co-founder of fashion label Swanky Modes. They will cast their expert eyes over the work of 10 hopefuls who face three challenges.

Upstart Crow
BBC2, 10pm
Will's controversial new play is about to be presented to Queen Elizabeth, but it goes missing and the finger of suspicion points to his best friend and fellow author KIt Marlowe. The playwright has to scramble desperately to come up with a way to recover his stolen masterpiece, though given its politically sensitive content, is he really wise to want it back? Ben Elton's comedy about William Shakespeare's family life and his professional career, starring David Mitchell as the Bard.

TUESDAY
Marcella
ITV, 9pm
After seven weeks of nail-biting tension and excellent performances from the likes of Anna Friel, Jamie Bamber and Harry Lloyd, The Bridge creator Hans Rosenfeldt's crime drama comes to a Earth-shattering climax tonight. The identity of the killer is finally revealed, which sends shockwaves through the entire team.

Leicester's Impossible Dream - Gary Lineker's Story of the 2015/16 Premier League Season
BBC1, 10.45pm
The Match of the Day host looks back at an astonishing campaign in the top flight, which saw 5,000/1 outsiders Leicester City defy all expectations and pick up their first-ever title. The Foxes began the season as one of the favourites for relegation, and their appointment of former Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri to replace the sacked Nigel Pearson was seen as uninspiring by many critics. However, the charismatic Italian brought a swashbuckling style of play to the team.

Upstart Crow, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

WEDNESDAY
Deepcut: Behind the Barbed Wire
BBC2, 9pm
As the inquest delivers its verdict into the death of young soldier Cheryl James, former soldiers who served alongside her at the notorious Deepcut barracks speak for the first time. James was found dead from a bullet wound to her head in November 1995, and was one of four recruits to die at the base in seven years. The documentary hears what life is really like behind the barbed wire, including the culture of bullying and physical and sexual abuse.

THURSDAY
Paxman in Brussels: Who Really Rules Us?
BBC1, 8pm
With the referendum looming, some of us still have questions we'd like addressing about what actually goes on between the EU and UK – and who better to get the answers for us than Jeremy Paxman? In this documentary, he's heading to the EU's headquarters in Brussels to learn more about how the decisions that affect half a billion people – including the resident of the UK – are made. Back in Britain, he looks at how Westminster's politics have been shaped by our relationship with Europe, and why the concept of 'sovereignty' has become so integral to the debate surrounding the referendum. Paxman also hears a range of opinions on whether or not the UK should remain within the union, and asks how our relationship with Europe might change whether we stay or we go.

FRIDAY
The Secret
ITV, 9pm
Seeing Matthew's death as God's full and final punishment for his past sins, Colin convinces himself that God will now allow him to prosper. However, when he loses all his money in a financial scam and his second wife Kyle threatens to leave him, he offers a full confession to the church and police. When Hazel later pleads her innocence, Colin agrees to appear as a key witness for the prosecution, determined to take her down with him. Drama, starring James Nesbitt, Genevieve O'Reilly and Katherine Kingsley. Last in the series.

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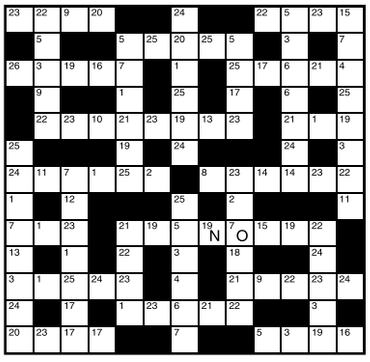
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

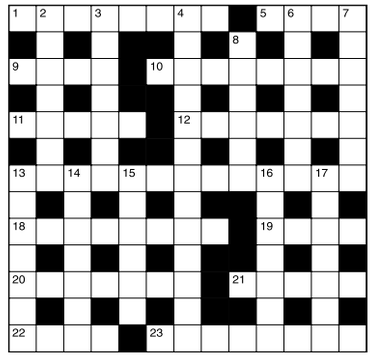


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
V	W	U	F	I	Z	A	M	J	L	S	K	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	T	D	G	Y	X	E	O	R	H	Q	P	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Game to set kilts swirling? (8)
5. Shape of a seat (4)
9. Anyone in it is out (4)
10. What the bride says afterwards won't be in church! (8)
11. Wild geese? It's just a yarn! (5)
12. Weak, and liable to get the wind-up? (3,4)
13. Hit-or-miss affair indicating a wrongful conviction? (5,3,5)
18. Mollified five hundred with sausage mash! (8)
19. A smack on the wrist (4)
20. He has main control (7)
21. Their families are their pride (5)
22. Ride past (4)
23. Beached and abandoned (8)

Down

2. The sort of critic who strikes? (7)
3. Female Russian artisan, perhaps (7)
4. An ordeal for the patient? (9,4)
6. Excel or finish with such sports (7)
7. He may live for weeks on water (7)
8. Not a cutting look! (6)
13. Unusual terrain for a coach (7)
14. Having poor taste (7)
15. The length an association will go to (6)
16. Disturbance in court, perhaps (7)
17. Misdemeanour of a receiver (7)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Supplement (8)
5. Cure (4)
9. Worry (4)
10. Plan of campaign (8)
11. Change (5)
12. Titular (7)
13. Unusually (13)
18. Abash (8)
19. Dispatch (4)
20. Distinctive (7)
21. Started (5)
22. Uninteresting (4)
23. Due proportion (8)

Down

2. Puzzle (7)
3. Outermost (7)
4. On purpose (13)
6. Everlasting (7)
7. Faithfulness (7)
8. Non-professional (6)
13. Released from obligation (7)
14. Solidify (7)
15. Gain (6)
16. Stern (7)
17. Listlessness (7)

Sudoku

8				5				3
4			2				1	5
		5	3		9	8		
	3			4			5	
		4	1		2	6		
	1			7			2	
		6	7		8	2		
3					4		7	9
2			5					6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	2	9	1	3	7	4	8	6
8	4	1	9	5	6	2	3	7
3	7	6	2	8	4	1	5	9
2	6	7	4	1	5	3	9	8
1	5	8	6	9	3	7	2	4
4	9	3	7	2	8	6	1	5
9	1	4	8	7	2	5	6	3
7	8	5	3	6	1	9	4	2
6	3	2	5	4	9	8	7	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Static; 4 Astray; 9 Preoccupation; 10 Overrun; 11 Irene; 12 Hoops; 14 Baths; 18 Stair; 19 Artiste; 21 Goes overboard; 22 Steams; 23 Co-heir. Down: 1 Siphon; 2 An eye for an eye; 3 Incur; 5 Stamina; 6 Raise the Stake; 7 Yankee; 8 Burns; 13 Perform; 15 Usages; 16 Names; 17 Tender; 20 Taboo. QUICK - Across: 1 Quiver; 4 Censor; 9 Expostulation; 10 Strayed; 11 Patio; 12 Build; 14 Repel; 18 Robot; 19 Riposte; 21 Embarrassment; 22 Treble; 23 Reason. Down: 1 Queasy; 2 Imperturbable; 3 Essay; 5 Example; 6 Shiftlessness; 7 Random; 8 Guide; 13 Literal; 15 Priest; 16 Broad; 17 Beaten; 20 Paste.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who was Spandau's last prisoner?
2. What is the largest of the Society Islands?
3. Which illness is also known as pertussis?
4. Which sport holds the Super Bowl contest?
5. Which superhero made his debut in Action Comics in 1938?
6. Which organ is affected by otitis?
7. Who was Ptolemy XVI's mother?
8. Of which bird is Meleagris gallopavo the domestic variety?
9. Which comedy was the first British film to break the £20m box office barrier?
10. Which sport was devised by William G Morgan in 1895?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Joanna Lumley; 2 Arizona; 3 Caesar; 4 Yarrow; 5 Knot; 6 Boris Pasternak; 7 New Zealand; 8 Ray Reardon; 9 Mount Erebus; 10 Grape.

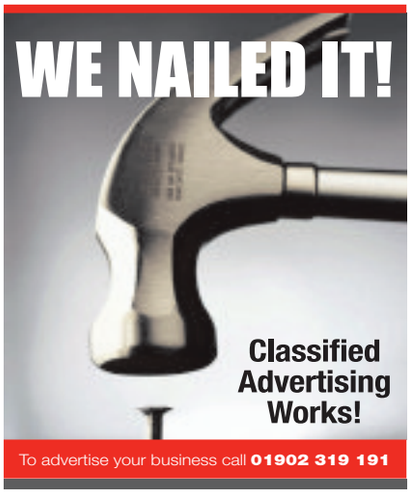
Niner: HECTORING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4125 gives a relative,
6713 gives a friend,
9842 gives a clergyman.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



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Property

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Just the beginning – the tandoori king prawns were plump

The bright stuff – chicken tikka masala

Chop chop – the tandoori lamb chops

Pictures by Steve Leath

Proving popular – the Penn Tandoori

Spice is right with combination of flavours that really hit the spot

THAT'S the best curry I've had in a long time," declared my sister. "The service was excellent," stated my eight-going-on-18 niece.

While my five-year-old nephew, who is the fussiest eater I've ever known, cleaned his plate.

And that, my friends, is testament enough to the fantastic meal we had at Penn Tandoori recently. In the history of writing these reviews I could probably count the number of five star ratings on one hand, but Penn Tandoori, at 272 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, is deserving of every bit of praise because it was faultless.

We arrived on a Monday evening during the Easter school holidays, and were pretty much banging on the door at 6pm we were so hungry.

I arrived late, but my sister and her children were already seated, coats kindly hung up for them and menus in hand.

Lisa Wright tucks in

The restaurant was quiet at this stage – we were the first through the door – but gradually through the evening it began to get busier, with a mix of couples and a few of the large tables that appeared to be celebrating birthdays. And when a restaurant is busy on a traditionally quiet Monday, that's always a good sign in my book.

Inside, the decor is nothing to scream about, but the environment is comfortable and relaxed. There's a small welcome area with a sofa and coffee table as you walk in, and as you are led into the restaurant it is surprisingly roomy, with a fully-licensed bar stocking a wide range of beers, wines and spirits.

It looks unfussy and classic with leather chairs, cream tablecloths, mint green walls, neat black napkins and a few ornaments here and there. Ultimately it is a classic venue.

We ordered soft drinks for the kids and a bottle of wine for the grown-ups while we looked through the menu, which has a great mix of classic dishes and some splendid-sounding specials.

Munched

As we were deciding what to order, we munched through a mountain of crisp poppadoms which came with various dips.

The menu was full of tempting offerings, particularly on the chef's specials menu, such as the chicken capsila – boneless tandoori chicken, cooked with ginger, herbs and green chilli, while the Penn special salmon was also tempting; a salmon dish served with traditional beans and garlic.

The menu also had all the classic offerings such as bhunas, pathias, madras and korma dishes, which gave the option of being vegetable, meat or prawn dishes. And if you don't fancy just one dish, you can also go for a combination option.

Suggestions include chicken korma with chicken bhuna, chicken jalfrezi and lamb balti along with chicken dansak and chicken dupiaza – perfect for those who can't make up their minds! There are also plenty of vegetable and side dishes.

Our food was delicious – my notoriously picky nephew showing off his clean plate with pride after his meal was proof of that.

The service was friendly and relaxed. And if that didn't win us over, the rose each of us three girls was given at the end of the night guaranteed we left with a smile on our faces. The bill came to just over £75, including a bottle of wine, worth every penny.

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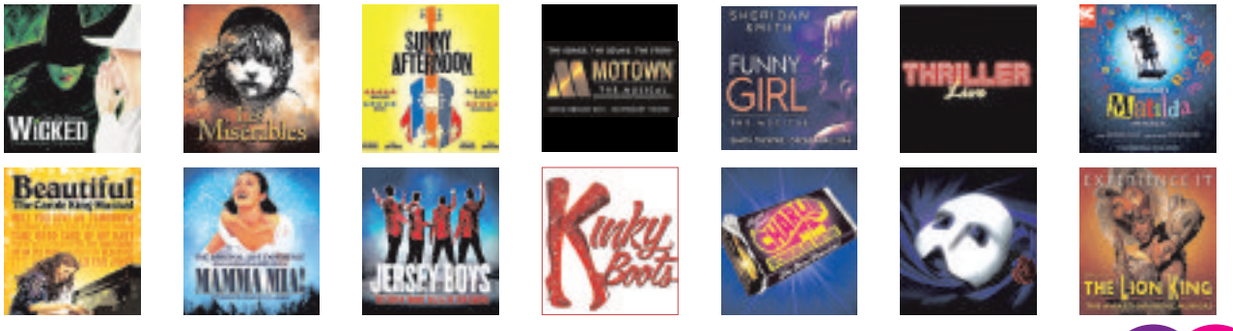

DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Four-bed detached home is in a quiet sought-after area

A well-presented four-bedroom detached home, 12 Alpine Drive, Netherton, Dudley, is situated in a quiet and highly sought after cul-de-sac close to popular local schools and to many amenities. It is for sale through The Property Shop at £215,000.

Having double glazing, central heating and spacious accommodation this briefly comprises a welcoming reception hallway, a modern refitted kitchen, large lounge with large patio doors overlooking the rear garden, guest WC, utility, study or play room (currently used for gym equipment), and a store room which is accessed from the rear garden.

The first-floor accommodation includes a master bedroom with an office/dressing room/nursery attached, there are also three further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Externally there is a driveway to the front and lawned gardens. To the rear is a landscaped garden with lawn, a Koi carp pond, paved patio and seating area.

The property currently benefits from super-fast broadband with speeds up to 100 Mbps available.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "An early viewing of this property is strongly recommended to avoid missing out!"

The Property Shop offers a variety of fantastic packages, such as one fully inclusive fee that includes both estate agent and solicitors fees, and with packages starting from £792 (including VAT) you won't find a better deal anywhere, said the spokesman for the estate agents.

Netherton Park is located near the town centre and was created on a former colliery waste site. Another old industrial area that has been reclaimed for public recreation is the Bumble Hole Local Nature Reserve.

The Dudley No 2 canal runs through the reserve and is the site for an annual narrowboat festival. A canalside visitor centre provides information on the reserve.

Nearby Netherton Cricket Club is situated on Highbridge Road and celebrated its 140th anniversary in 2006.

Netherton Reservoir is a popular resort for boat enthusiasts as well as scuba divers.

KEY FEATURES

- Sought after cul-de-sac location
- Spacious accommodation
- Modern refitted kitchen
- Four bedrooms
- Store room
- Off-road parking
- Energy rating C

NETHERTON £215,000

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EMAIL: info@thepropertyshop.co.uk

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 12, 2016

Upping the bar on Kuga

By John Griffiths

You hear a lot about crossover or compact SUV cars these days: that's because they are effectively driving the new car market and almost every manufacturer has been rushing to get one in the showrooms.

Sales of such vehicles were up by 25 per cent in the first quarter of the year, way above the industry average.

Ford got into the race early, with the first Kuga almost a decade ago, and with many more, and newer rivals, now was a good time to update an improve the car.

Like most of the competition, there are front wheel and four wheel drive options and a range of petrol ansd diesel options at prices from just under £20,000, which does put them at something of a disadvantage to the private buyer, at least.

The new car is distinguished by its front end, with a more steeply sloping bonnet (to increase its pedestrian safety rating), new lights and a lot of new technology inside.

Also new to the line up is the entry level Zetec model with the fuel and tax saving 120PS version of Ford's now familiar 1.5 litre 'Ecoboost' turbocharged petrol engine.

The test car was fitted with the 148bhp Ecoboost' (there's also a 178bhp version) and this comes with front wheel drive only – only the top-rated petrol and diesel units are fitted to all-wheel drive examples.

Of course many of the compact SUVs you see on the roads are two-wheel drive: many owners don't want or need a full-fledged 4x4 with the extra expense that involves. But they like the style, image, tall 'command' driving position, ease of access (due to higher seats) and practicality.

That said, even the front wheel drive Kuga has some limited off-road (or rough track at any rate) ability as it shares the same high ground clearance, with skid plates to protect the underside, and long travel suspension as its more expensive siblings.

The use of a relatively small capacity engine with turbocharging is a feature gaining ground across the motor industry. Used carefully, it saves fuel while still having the power to respond, for overtaking for example when necessary: it's 0 to 62mph sprint takes under ten seconds, impressive for a car of this size with just 1,500ccs under the bonnet.

The turbo also gives it more torque, more 'grunt' at lower engines speeds like a modern diesel, so that it cruises quietly and smoothly at motorway speeds.

Indeed, the Kuga is an excellent, refined motorway cruiser: the engine is barely breathing heavily and is so quiet you're more conscious of the slipstream being deflected by the big off-roader style door mirrors. It feels a very grown up sort of car.

It drives just how you would expect from a Ford: the gearshift is slick, the steering nicely weighted and despite its height the body is well controlled so it's happy to hustle along twisty b-roads without upsetting passengers.

High mileage or business users may prefer the more expensive to buy but cheaper to tax and run 2.0 litre diesel – the 148bhp version returns around 60mpg with a CO2 rating several tax bands lower at 122g/km.

Inside, the Kuga matches up to the opposition for space and particularly headroom. The rear bench has two large outer seats (which can be reclined individually) with a central cushion perhaps best suited to a younger member of the family.

The Kuga has a lot of competition these days, but this latest makeover looks like keeping its place in the scramble for compact SUV sales

Oddly, the Zetec model as tested has a much different instrument layout to the higher grade Titanium. The centre console is topped by a control screen for stereo, phone and other functions. The test car was also fitted with the optional satnav, which for £650 gets you a slightly larger screen plus a basic repeater function between the speedo and tachometer.

The Kuga now has Ford's sophisticated SYNC system, which allows the driver to use voice commands for a range of functions as well as features such as audible text messaging and instant access to emergency assistance. Cruise control with speed limiter, Ford's excellent Quickclear windscreen, front fog lamps, twin chromed exhausts, manual air conditioning and electrically operated and heated door mirrors are all included in basic specification.

Boot space is among the best in class, with 406 litres which can be increased to 1,603 if the rear seats are folded down.

The Kuga has a lot of competition these days, but this latest makeover – coupled with a cheaper and more economical entry level version – looks like keeping its place in the scramble for compact SUV sales.

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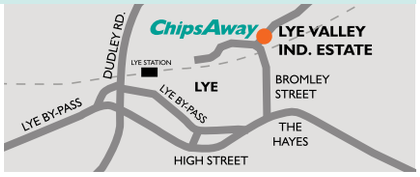

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All seasons and reasons

When the going gets tough, TV vet Julian Norton knows his Mitsubishi Outlander diesel will get him through it.

The 43-year-old is based in Thirsk, near the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors – at James Herriot's former practice no less. And just like the world-famous literary vet, he faces challenges reaching his patients as well as dealing with them.

Julian was the main focus of The Yorkshire Vet – a six-part Channel 5 series last autumn that followed him and his trusty Outlander on his visits. "Based in rural North Yorkshire, it's important we're able to get out and about in all weathers, all conditions and all types of road surface. It's often slippy, even if not always snowy, so it's really useful to have a four-wheel-drive vehicle, and I know my Outlander will cope,' he said. 'It's a lovely vehicle to drive and it gives you a lot more confidence when you're heading into fields, for example – and we often have to head into fields!"

The Outlander is just as capable reversing up tricky narrow hillside country lanes – for example, to allow oncoming vehicles to pass by – as it is being steered through a ford.

The new diesel model is Mitsubishi's safest and most environmentally-friendly version. Among the many enhancements, 40 noise, vibration and harshness improvements have been introduced, and it boasts new styling, too. Ride and handling are even better and there's increased efficiency, while the cabin interior has improved comfort and safety.

And these are all winners as far as Julian is concerned. "The Outlander looks really great. It's very stylish, and as well as that, it actually feels like a car because it's not as enormous as some of the equivalent vehicles on the market. It handles really nicely and there's plenty of space – there's a lovely big boot, which we need for our medicines and equipment and calving jacks and so on and so forth, but it's not ridiculously big that it makes it hard to fit into parking spaces or get down my drive at home."

It's important we're able to get out and about in all weathers, all conditions and all types of road surfaces

Away from the surgery, Julian is very much a man of action. Until recently, he was – with friend and Olympic oarsman Roger Brown – the world record-holder for tandem indoor rowing over a 24-hour period. Nowadays when he's not working, Julian takes part in triathlons and Ironman challenges, and goes biking and ski mountaineering – he also represented Great Britain in the Half-Iron Distance Triathlon European championships last year and in 2014.

"Again, the Outlander's great for all that because when I've not got my veterinary stuff in the boot I can stick loads of kit in, and one of my sons is a very keen triathlete, so we can stick his bike in the back and head off. It's really good for that."

The Outlander diesel – truly a vehicle for all seasons and all reasons.

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£5,300.
07941 801230.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED.
Can pick up asap.
Caravan wanted.
Call me on 07717 090817.

sports & leisure

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
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holidays

caravan holidays

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
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07776373150

caravan sales

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN for you and achieve the best possible price. Seven Valley Leisure, Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

holiday homes

11 MONTH, HOLIDAY PARK HOME
Furnished, DG, GCH, 42ft x 13ft, 2 bed / 2 shower. Bromdon caravan park, Shropshire,
£45,000 ono.
01584 823755. 01952 872561.

what's on

antique fairs

VINTAGE ANTIQUE / Collectables Fair, Coven Memorial Hall WV9 5DL Sunday 15 May 10-3. Karen 01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

book fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 15th May, Est 1979,Waverley. 01215504123. Next Antique fair (Extra Fair) 29th May & 5th June. Stalls available for all.

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 18th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

furniture

DARK BROWN LEATHER settee and 1 recliner chair, no rips or marks, very good condition. £175. 01384 257290.

MEMORY FOAM double mattress, £80 o.n.o. Side unit, mahogany wood, £150. o.n.o. 01902 334366.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER: Excellent condition. £85.
Telephone 07493 919511

in your garden

A BAG your own bargain. £2. Muck, compost, soil. Tettenhall Horse Sanctuary, Jenny Walker Lane, Perton, WV6 7HB. 07799 705142.

HUSQVARNA 46IN ride on mower, 2016 model, (unused), £2,350. Husqvarna 22in lawnmower, (unused), £400. 01743 718939.

LAWN TRACTOR
22hp, 42 inch cut with collector, totally new and unused.
Cost £3,500.
Will accept £1,850.
Can deliver.
Telephone 07710 169150.

items wanted

All gold 9ct up to £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
• Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ALL BRASS / COPPER ornaments/ brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys. 01902 745598.

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES
Tickets and other sports memorabilia.
Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

MAMOD STEAM engines/trains wanted all conditions, railway collections, Dinky, Corgi vehicles, any condition. 01902 745598.

OLD BIBLES Wanted, pre 1900, for Private buyer. Fair prices paid. Distance no object. Telephone 0115 973 5662.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES WANTED also any old Crash magazines wanted.
Please call 01902 892918.

URGENTLY REQUIRED dvds, cds and blu-rays, ps4 games, good price paid, can collect. Please call 07436 018819.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

MEMORY FOAM double mattress, £80 o.n.o. Side unit, mahogany wood, £150. o.n.o. 01902 334366.

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specialists at your service

aerials

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WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
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01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
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alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

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double glazing

ATS DOUBLE GLAZING UPVC back doors from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. 01922 442720.

driveways/patio cleaning

Block Paving
Tarmacadam restore, crete-print cleaning / reseal.
Able Drive Care
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FREE QUOTES

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

external rendering / insulation

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gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.
6x6 H/D Treated panels £15.95
6x5 Feather edge panels £18.95
8 foot concrete posts £8.95
12 inch x 6 foot gravel boards £7.95
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Tidy Fencing
Professional Fence Fitters & Gardeners
Established 2001
We are fully insured
NPTC qualified and all work comes with a 12 month warranty.
SPECIAL RATES available to senior citizens.
No job too small.
BIG SPRING DISCOUNT NOW AVAILABLE

Shed refelts now available!
01384 620 072
07908 478 962

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARAGES / SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

painters / decorators

HODGETTS DECORATORS. All aspects of commercial and domestic work. C & G qualified. Free quotes. Call 01902 324128.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. For All Your Home Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience.
Call Mark 07741 770 897.

removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

A1 KINGSWINFORD
REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

Stourbridge Removals
20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office, Part loads, landlord clean & repair service. House clearances.
Quality service guaranteed lowest rates
Call John - 07802 876 876
office - 01562 640 640

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Experts in all roofing and building aspects Including:
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MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

STABLES AND grazing to let in Lower Penn. 07802 202211 or 01902 342882.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

pets corner

ADORABLE KITTENS 1 ginger male, 1 black and white female, 9 weeks, £40 each. 07765 652167.

BORDER COLLIE Pups, black and white/tri, excellent temperament, very pretty. 07747 496737.

JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING/sitting service. W-ton. Fully insured/reg. Senior Citizen rates. 07974 913703

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ONE PAIR Of Moustache Parakeets, £300 pair. Yellow Pied Rosella's. £150 pair. Both breeding pairs. 01746 764839.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

plant, machinery & tools

NAKAMURA TOME 4 CNC LATHE, Fanuc control, cheap to clear, £2,500.
01952 593585 or 07456 174187.

6 Property

mobile homes

TWO BEDROOM twin unit park home, in Broseley all amenities walking distance, £75,000 ono. 07976 616326.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BILSTON Modern, One-bed flat with parking, recently refurbished. £385pcm. 07837 635937.

DUDLEY Furnished bed sitter with own separate kitchen/bath. £87pw. Suit mature DSS. 07550 002549.

ONE BED Furnished flat, working couple/single, off Stafford Road, £395pcm excl bills. 01902 238770.

TWO BED spacious luxury flat, Kingswinford, DG, CH, £475pcm. Ref's required. 07811 395722.

WALSALL AND WILLENHALL houses, bedsits, rooms to let. 07825 581676.

7 Jobs

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER requires full time employment, anything considered.
07534 767256.

full time - general

JUNIOR SECRETARY/ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
This job offers tremendous opportunity for a junior person who can type, file, help to organize meetings, etc. The final goal of the job would be to train a person who could assist the Chairman of a very successful company operating in several countries throughout the world. The "junior" basic aspect would involve up to two years training. The work would entail publicity and marketing and several foreign trips per year - Canada, USA and Europe. To fully grasp this role an initial phone interview would be helpful.
Please send CV to include a detailed explanation of your present background along with your phone number to: anne.dunning@outlook.com

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

CITROEN C5 2.0HDi Diesel Estate, 07,1 owner,blue,full Citroen service history, 110k, long MoT, alloys, 2 keys. £1,895. 07831 609261.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO Desire, 16 valve, 2006, silver, long MoT, air con, CD/radio, electric windows/mirrors, excellent condition, £1,595. 01384 401209.

FORD FIESTA 1242cc, 08, silver, two door, 10,900 miles, very reliable and very good condition. £2,500. 0121 544 7663.

MAZDA 6 TAKUYA 2012, 2.2 diesel sports style, 17,000 miles, 12 months MoT, half leather, immaculate. £9,500. 01384 832702.

MICRO CAR M8, 2013 reg, automatic, 10 months, MoT, £7,000 ono. 01384 486036.

MINI COOPER 2010 (60 reg) 22k, 2 lady owners, silver, factory colour coded trim, black alloys, FMSH, Service pack until 2018. A/C. MoT Nov 16. Excellent condition.
£6,095. o.n.o.
Codsall 07734 310905.

PEUGEOT 107, YELLOW, 2007, full MoT, 80,500 miles, 5 door, new exhaust, first to see will buy. £1,795. 07432 093948.

S TYPE JAGUAR
2004, 2.7, diesel, auto, full leather, metallic grey, front and rear parking assistance, MoT, service history, 85,000 miles,
£2,850.
01902 897932.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi, COUPE
07 reg. two door. Panacotta. Full MoT. 51,000 miles. Excellent condition.
£2,995.
01384 831042
or 07479 004522.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 2006, 50,000 miles, silver, electric windows, FSH, alarm, MoT, central locking, Alloys. £2,500. 07762 710966.

VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 16V 59 reg., 3dr, black, 88,000 miles, 7 months MoT, 4 new tyres, FSH. £2,450. 07890 604431.

VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE
Sept 2009, 38,000 miles, grey, 1.2 litre petrol, MoT October 2016, 3 door, used daily.
£2,750.
07703 504200.

VAUXHALL CORSA Life, 1.3 diesel, 2009, low tax, red, good condition, £2,200 ono. Rowley area 07733 281902.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 diesel energy, 2007, 7 seater, MoT Dec, metallic silver, tow bar, good condition, £2,450 ono. 07583 022011.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 325 TDS SE, auto, classic insurance, good condition, serviced, MoT'd, £995. 07864 842076.

CITROEN PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 2002, diesel, full MoT, very reliable. £550 ono. 07810 313466.

FORD FIESTA Finesse 1.3, S reg., 50K, 5-dr, full MoT, Sunroof, stereo, blue, PAS, one previous owner, reliable, £385. 07964 350386.

FORD FOCUS EDGE 1.8 diesel, 54 reg, 115hp, 5 door, 57,000 miles, e/w, pas, 9 months MoT. Good condition. £1,250. 07989 243426

FORD MONDEO 1.8 zetec, 52 plate, alloys, petrol, good condition. £450 ono. 07947 478487.

MERCEDES C200 Sport, 87,000 miles, FSH, 1998, racing green, lovely condition. £1,500.
07434 956985.

PEUGEOT 206
1.24cc hatchback, petrol, 2002, 72,000 miles, lady owner, FSH, just had complete engine overhaul and service.
£950.
07802 202211 or 01902 342882.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 petrol, SE, 06, black, 76,000 miles, very clean in/out, EW, AC, full MoT, 1 former keeper, £1,300. 07838 897643.

RENAULT MEGANE, 99, V Reg., MoT, 92k, excellent runner, time belt, water pump change, £300. ono.01902 635484/07583 144874

RENAULT MODUS Dynamique DC1, 2006 reg., f.s.h. MoT till January 2017, 95,000 miles, 1 owner, £1,000 ono. 07568 177314.

ROVER 45 2005 reg, 48,000 miles, 1 careful owner, service history, 10 months MoT, £500. 01902 684217 or 07804 497857.

TOYOTA AVENSIS, 2005, 164k, silver/olive, fsh, MoT, diesel, alloys, CD, cambelt at 150k, good condition. £750 ono. 07405 196046.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Club, spares or repairs, working order. £250 ono. 07747 509760.

VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE, 998cc, 3 door, 54 reg, red, 73k, with service history, MoT, lady owner, excellent condition, £895. 07399 675758.

VW GOLF 3dr, silver, 1.9 diesel, 1997, very reliable, MoT until November, £450. 01746 716752.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

VAUXHALL CORSA VAN
Ecoflex, 1300 CDTi, 2007, 86,000 miles, FSH, 7 months MoT. Two owners from new. First to see will buy. Immaculate in/out.
£2,500 ono.
07872 949729.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

HONDA REBEL 250 CLASSIC 1998, excellent condition for age. £999 ono.
Contact Lisa 07505 357726.

KAWASAKI GTR1000
H reg, 17,000 miles from new, immaculate condition, £1,575 ono.
YAMAHA MAJESTY
400cc scooter, 04 reg, 40,000 miles, £1,200 ono.
07877 722908.

TWO BIKE TRAILER superb build, ramp, spare wheel, locking hitch, galvanised. £650.
01902 741598.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or 07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

tyres / wheels / exhausts

TYRES FOR Vauxhaul Astra, x 4, 185/65/15, as new, 1 part worn. £25 each. also 155/80/13, part worn, £10. 07866 750420.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

ERIC LESLIE HATTON
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 6 Broughton Road Pedmore Stourbridge West Midlands DY9 0XP, who died on 06/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 15/07/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ASSURED PROBATE SERVICES
The Worksop Turbine Centre
Shireoaks Triangle Business Park
Coach Close Worksop
Nottinghamshire S81 8AP T471107

10 Personals

personal

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Gentle Non Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

GENTLEMAN 62
Slim, single, very good sense of humour, very caring nature, smoker.
Down to earth, like meals out, walks, pubs, nights in and out.
WLTM similar aged slim lady for a long term relationship.
Genuine replies only please.
Please write to:
Box Number C20343,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE ATTRACTIVE SLIM MAN 53
GSOH, car owner, would like to meet genuine lady 40-58 for evenings, days out and friendship.
Box Number P20344 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

NICE MAN, 75 YEARS OLD
Fit, able-bodied, would like to meet similar a nice lady 65-75 for friendship, relationship, holidays, with car.
Halesowen area, other areas considered.
Box Number P20350,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

INDIAN LADY 31
Divorced with six year old child.
Employed, with own home.
Seeks a kind caring, gentleman of same status.
Photo appreciated please (returned).
Please write to:
Box Number P20340,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE MALE
Slim, NS male, 69, from Wombourne.
WLTM slim, NS, adventurous lady who enjoys travel, country walks and pubs and visiting interesting places.
Box Number P20341,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

SINGLE MAN SEMI RETIRED
Would like to meet nice slim lady 40-64, likes countryside, evenings, holidays etc.
Box Number P20334 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOW
Young at heart 70's. Active, honest, solvent, NS with GSOH. I enjoy days out, pub meals, theatre, cinema, holidays etc. Would like similar Friend either M / F to enjoy happy times.
Box Number P20342 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE MAN SEMI RETIRED
Loves live music, holidays abroad.
WLTM slim lady 45-70.
Photo appreciated. (Returned).
Box Number P20348 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

AFC WILLENHALL UNDER 12'S CURRENT YEAR 7
PLAYERS WANTED.
All outfield positions for Sunday team playing in Walsall Junior League and Saturday team playing in Midland Junior Premier League.
Contact Lee 07973 151760.

DUDLEY SPORTS 6-A-SIDE SUMMER TOURNAMENT
Saturday May 21, 2016 & Sunday, May 22, 2016.
Saturday morning session, U'9s, U'12s, U'13s.
Afternoon session U'10s, U'11s, U'15s
Sunday 22, morning session U'7s, U'8s and U'14s, U'16s
Afternoon session, U'11's /12 girls, U'13 /14 girls, U'15/16 girls,
Download application form
www.dudleysportsjfc.co.uk or ring Fred 07788 684258.

PENN COLTS FC
5 / 7 A-SIDE TOURNAMENT
U7'S minor - 8 / 10 / 12 / 14 / Under 16's
Saturday, July 2.
U7'S / 9 / 11 / 13 / 15.
Sunday, July 3.
For all application form visit www.penncolts.co.uk or call 07748 677682.

PENN COLTS FC
School year 1
Penn Colts are looking for players in school year 1, to play in our teams for the 2016/17 season.
Training Sat Mornings.
FA Charter Standard Club.
Contact Dave 07831 582978.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

FREE ACCOMODATION
Would suit retired person on a small Caravan Park, near Bewdley.
Must be willing to do small odd jobs, Gardening etc.
01299 266312.

LOOKING FOR MY SON
Mr A Lewis
Last seen Wolverhampton
Please get in touch
Write to Box No: P20349, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Express & Star

FANTASTIC HOME DELIVERY OFFER
GET YOUR PAPER DELIVERED SIX NIGHTS
FROM ONLY £1.65 PER WEEK.*

*Just £1.65 per week**
Free happy announcement advert in paper worth up to £25 for all direct debit customers

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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

KATHY, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. **Text only Mailbox: 4539974**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657**

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. **Text only Mailbox: 5428223**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241** tt

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953**

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTM like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66 -73, for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

CLARA, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422055**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877**

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTM male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTM fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029**

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977**

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. **Text only Mailbox: 5448634**

CARING honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

MANDY divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. **Text only Mailbox: 5444151**

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM white male for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy ,easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. **Text only Mailbox: 5079890**

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights in front of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935**

CARING honest female, WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809**

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583**

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421566**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503**

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451**

JESSICA 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421563**

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413**

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311**

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259**

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241**

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135**

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115**

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

IAN, 5ft8, medium build, OHAC, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTM similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421345**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

WHITE male 58, looking for large built Indian or Black woman for no strings adult fun. **Text only Mailbox: 4223520**

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. **Text only Mailbox: 5457564**

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks cuddly large full figured kind loving lady 50 to 60 for LTR, love, kisses, cuddles, holding hands as well. **Text only Mailbox: 5439562**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, loving, tactile hoping for love again. **Text only Mailbox: 5449242**

ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783**

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422213**

ALWAYS loved it and want to experience an older man, who knows how to make love? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422209**

ASIAN gent, 48, kind and caring, wishes to meet lady for chats, weekend outings and LTR, any age/status, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422181**

MALE, 40s, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747**

KISSING in depth, do what turns us on? Both unattached, yourself 35 to …, am kinky, 69, Cancer sign, WLTM for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422177**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

18+ and you want to be taught? Teacher glad to teach you, older, experienced guy, gentle and tender, etc, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422203**

WIDOWED OAP 82, WLTM lady any age for genuine companionship, togetherness, holidays and more. Can travel or accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 4625673**

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. **Text only Mailbox: 4918364**

45 YEAR male with varied interests WLTM female, 35 to 55, for friendship and hopefully more. **Text only Mailbox: 4215562**

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MALE early 60s, young outlook on life seeks similar 50s early 60s genuine female, slim with GSOH for friendship maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5443478**

PAUL 65yrs, Mobility probs but very caring looking for caring lady 60/70 for friendship and possible LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5456394**

BUSINESSMAN, 58, adventurous and broadminded seeks a wild companion for fun and new experiences. **Text only Mailbox: 4534092**

44YRS old male, kind, genuine and honest, looking a long-term relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

MALE, 56, slim, 6ft, considerate and caring seeks similar type female to share life with. **Text only Mailbox: 5388635**

EDDIE, honest, caring, down to earth, likes all kinds of music, going out and having a good time, looking for a Black or Polish lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422019**

MALE, kinky as hell, and you're any age/looks/race/colour, this unattached guy, 69, god love it, anyway. LTR etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422017**

YOUNG looking 58 year old male, looking for black or Polish female 23-49 years, I am single, white and looking for a long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419903**

MATURE male, 60, seeks female for social meets, kisses, cuddles and intimate sexy fun, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421933**

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, professional male, 50, GSOH, easygoing, looking to meet someone with a GSOH, to have a laugh and a joke and take things from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421903**

SINGLE male 49, caring, romantic, affectionate, many interests, WLTM slim, busty female 25-45. **Text only Mailbox: 4362337**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

YOUNG looking 56 single male, looking for a relationship with petite 40 to 50 year old, likes going out/staying in. **Text only Mailbox: 5428643**

LEE, 44, honest, genuine and very caring looking for the same in a woman. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

SINGLE business man , 5'11, brown eyes, well dressed, stocky build, fair skinned, successful, not bad looking, kind, generous WLTM female for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5441173**

JOE single 40's Paddy with GSOH, warm hearted, WLTM that single special lady to brighten up my life. **Text only Mailbox: 5440368**

WILL, age 60, slim, grey brown hair, non smoker, keen cyclist, kind Christian man WLTM caring lady to share life with. Lives near Monmouth. **Text only Mailbox: 5447401**

TONY, very slim, seeks slim female, looks/age unimportant. I am very broadminded, for no strings fun. Very discreet. **Text only Mailbox: 5442177**

ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783**

NICK, 41, 5ft7, Taurus, n/s, handsome, likes keeping fit, seeks female 30-40s, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421863**

MALE, from West Brom, slim, young 49, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747**

JOHN, 60s, sincere, looking to love and be loved, hurt in the past, likes meals out, sports and east coast. **Text only Mailbox: 4467786**

TOM, 58, dark hair, 6ft, seeks older mature female. Size and looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421595**

PROFESSIONAL male 62, looking for curvy feminine woman, 50-70, for relationship, loves theatre, films, music, concerts and breaks away. **Text only Mailbox: 4435871**

MIKE, 6ft, medium to big build, WLTM lady for no stings fun, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421359**

MALE seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418481**

ROBERT, solvent gentleman, seeks female companion, to attend ice hockey, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421517**

MATURE 23 year old. Career minded. Workaholic. Looking for a chat maybe more? Age does not matter. **Text only Mailbox: 5423510**

Gay Singles

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MATURE male WLTM similar mature male, preferably hairy, bald and over 60 years for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422191**

MALE, 56, seeks older male, 70-80, for close adult fun, married welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421475**

MATURE male 61, WLTM male, 50 or 60s, who is on the submissive side, for fun and friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 4236310**

CAROL, bi curious lady, blonde, 5ft2, short hair, blue eyes, size 14, WLTM a similar lady between 50-60 years old. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421281**

CHRIS genuine gay female, 55, smoker, likes days out, cosy nights in, seeks local, feminine gay female, 40-50's for special relationship. Nottinghamshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 373131**

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MELANIE 47, seeks straight female friends for nights out, pubs, clubs, concerts, etc. Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. **Text only to mailbox no: 5345662**

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

Customer support
Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

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Ole Olsen with the fans at Monmore Green

Champion – badge of honour for Ole Olsen

1981 speedway final, Tommy Knudsen (3rd) Bruce Penhall (1st) and Ole Olsen (2nd)

Wolves ace Ole Olsen ready for action

Ole Olsen talks to sports sub-editor Tim Hamblin

No dummy, Ole stood tall alongside Borg and Ali

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Tim Hamblin

HE may have a waxwork of himself in the loft, but Ole Olsen is no-one's idea of a dummy. 'The Great Dane' was Denmark's first speedway world champion.

His three wins in the seventies smashed open a door through which fellow countrymen Erik Gundersen, Hans Nielsen and Jan O Pedersen later poured through in a golden age of shale for that nation.

And Olsen's stature in the world of sport was underlined not only by his likeness being cast in the Danish Madame Tussaud's, but where it was placed.

"Madame Tussaud's made me in wax in 1975, I think, or '78," he said. "I was standing in Madame Tussaud's in Copenhagen together with Bjorn Borg and Muhammad Ali! They were great sportsmen, so it was good.

Trickster

"They gave it to me five or six years later. I've got it up in the loft. As a joke one day, when I was away, my sons stuck it in our bed and my wife (Ulla) came in! That was Jacob, who rode for Coventry (and Wolves). He was a bit of a trickster!"

Olsen's deeds on track are legendary. On top of his three world crowns the former Wolves star was national champion a dozen times, helped Denmark to three world team crowns, won the prestigious Pardubice Golden Helmet on no fewer than seven occasions – oh, and knocked off the Australian championship on a trip down under. The fact that Olsen, as a non-Australian, was not eligible was disregarded for a far more important factor – his drawing power. But the 69-year-old's influence in the sport is far wider.

He built the celebrated Vojens circuit in his homeland, prepared tracks worldwide and helped launch and run the Grand Prix series that superseded the old one-off world championship finals – his other son Torben is now managing director of its promoters BSI Speedway.

"A lot of people, they see the goal. When they start losing it, it's because they've taken their eyes off the goal."

Olsen retired as a rider more than 30 years ago, yet his "An Evening With..." appearance at the Cleveland Arms in Wolverhampton was an immediate sell-out.

It all seems a world away from his first appearance on these shores, as a promising youngster taken under the wing of all-time great Ivan Mauger at Newcastle. But one thing Olsen has never lacked is focus.

"Sports psychology was coming in in the seventies and when I won the world championship in 1971 the Swedes were doing a lot of it," he said.

"So I got a bit interested, studied it. My goal gave me the drive. A lot of people, they see the goal. When they start losing it, it's because they've taken their eyes off the goal."

But Olsen retained that focus, even to the extent of leaving Wolves when at the height of his powers.

His six-year stint at Monmore Green in the era of promoter Mike Parker featured two world championships, but at the end of 1975 Olsen held out for a move to Coventry even though the rider control system of the time allocated him to Hull.

"It was not because I wanted to leave Wolves, but in those days a lot of the world finals were run on bigger tracks," he said.

"We ran in Poland, we ran in Sweden, and Wembley also. Most of those tracks were about 400m, the Polish and Swedish ones. I wanted to go to a little bit bigger track.

"Wolverhampton was small, all the technique, I liked that. But I just had to get a change."

In addition Olsen, while looking back fondly at his Monmore days, was clearly captivated by the way things were run up the road at Brandon under the polished promotion of Charles Ochiltree.

"He was a fantastic promoter and I wanted to go there," he admitted. "Things were well organised and I learned a lot on the promoting side and things like that for when I built my own track in Denmark."

Olsen spent eight years at Brandon, during which he landed his third world title in 1978, before retiring in 1983. Perhaps inevitably he won his very last world final race, a run-off for third spot in the prestigious Brandonapolis individual event at Coventry, and self-effacingly apologised to overall winner Kenny Carter for standing on the rostrum's top spot to deliver his retirement speech.

Throttle

Success for Olsen did not end there. It even extended to twinkling the toes rather than blipping the throttle with a stint on the Danish version of Strictly Come Dancing – at the age of 60.

"I wanted to try things," he added. "It took me a bit of time to accept it (Strictly), but after two years I did because they kept pressing me.

"My sister went to dancing school and I hated that stuff! But I thought 'I'll do it when I'm 60.'

"I was 30 years older than the next youngest one. I have a different respect for those dancers and the work they put into it," he said.

"I practised four or five hours a day and lost a lot of weight, so it was good. I went fourth, so that was very good!"

No dummy. But a great mover.

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Sport

Ole! Speedway ace Olsen on why he's no dummy

Page 39

Heathens still unbeaten on home track

Cradley 48 Isle Of Wight 42

CRADLEY were forced to dig deep to preserve their unbeaten record at Monmore Green as they prevailed in a nervy encounter with the Isle of Wight.

The patched-up Heathens were without influential No.1 Ashley Morris or injured duo Jack Kingston and Bradley Andrews as they looked to bounce back from a 51-39 defeat at Brandon against Coventry on Friday. There, Heathens failed to recover from a slow start and slipped to their second successive away loss after being well beaten by Birmingham at Perry Barr.

But they bounced back on Monday. With the scores level after 10 heats, they looked in danger of suffering their first defeat at Wolverhampton track since being beaten by Buxton in August 2011. But they put in a brave performance to emerge victorious in a tense finale and maintain their perfect 2016 home record.

The Warriors, bolstered by guest bookings for former Heathen Tom Perry and teenage sensation Dan Bewley, emerged with a well-deserved consolation point for their efforts.

But it was ultimately a job well done for Will Pottinger's young side as they were once again led superbly by star heat-leader trio skipper Max Clegg, Luke Chessell and guest Ben Morley playing vital roles.

Morley won each of his opening three rides to keep Wight at bay. He then packed the minor placings alongside Clegg in a breathtaking heat 13 before Clegg stormed home in the penultimate race to wrap up victory.

Chessell also started and ended his night with race wins, including a timely triumph in heat 12. However, it was crucial contributions from battling duo Ben Basford and James Purchase which arguably made all the difference.

Gibraltar rocked as Stour darter gives Dutch star a scare

STOURBRIDGE'S Nick Fullwell gave world No 1 Michael van Gerwen a run for his money before bowing out of the Gibraltar Darts Trophy.

Fullwell was the only darter from the West Midlands to get past the first round of the PDC European Tour event.

The formidable 'MvG' laid in wait but Fullwell enjoyed his moments, such as when he struck first blood to break the deadlock.

Van Gerwen raced into a commanding 5-2 lead but, with the crowd coming onto his side, Fullwell pulled it back to 5-4. The 46-year-old pushed the Dutchman all the way, until his opponent closed the contest on double 18 to go through.

Fullwell, who doesn't have a Pro Tour card, was included in the line-up after coming through an open qualifier in March. He had dumped out the hosts' qualifier Antony Lopez 6-2 in the first round, where Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones was also eliminated

Jones was guaranteed £1,000 in prize money just for taking part with Fullwell picking up £1,500 for his run.

It's Grasshoppers versus Greyhounds

John Slim, captains Simon Blackadder, Jonathan Blackburn and vice-captain Andy Tomlinson

RUGBY

FRIDAY the 13th will prove unlucky for one of Stourbridge rugby club' amateur sides as they bring the curtain down on this season, competing for bragging rights and the 'Clash of the Titans' trophy – and most importantly helping to raise funds for charity.

Stourbridge Lions 2s (AKA the Greyhounds) and the Lions 3s (AKA the Grasshoppers) will take to the first team pitch on Friday night aiming to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Macmillan was chosen after club president John Slim's wife Caroline Benton was diagnosed with breast cancer and received vital support from Macmillan during her subsequent months of treatment on the Georgina ward at Russells Hall Hospital.

The Grasshoppers will be looking to inflict a rare defeat on their illustrious young opponents, who finished a respectable fourth in the North Midlands Reserve League Division 3.

All the proceeds will be split between the charity and the club development fund. The fun starts at 7pm. Admission is £5 for adults. Contact the club on 01384 395000 or John Slim on 07989 786913.

FAVOURITES TOO STRONG

Stourbridge 209 lost to Oswestry 252-8 by eight wickets

STOURBRIDGE 1st XI made an encouraging start by posting 200 runs at the Memorial Ground.

But that was not enough to beat an Oswestry side relegated from Division One of the Birmingham and District league last season – and one of the favourites to top division two.

Winning the toss Oswestry skipper Jonathan Miles batted first on a wicket that looked to be full of runs.

Stourbridge, who fought off relegation at the final match of the 2015 season beating Brewood, struck first grabbing two wickets for just 38 runs in the 12th over. Umar Khalid taking the wickets of Warrick Fynn caught in the slips for 10 and bowling Scott Hale for 13.

The home side struggled to take another wicket until the 24th over when Junaid Casseim was brilliantly run out by a direct hit from Jitesh Jivan. Cassiem and the number 4 Xavier Clarke had put on 79 runs in 60 balls. Having missed a catch behind Stour witnessed Oswestry plunder another big partnership, this time of 89, between Clarke and Miles in 108 balls.

The star of Oswestry innings was 16-year-old Clarke who missed out on his ton by seven runs bowled by the spinner Junad Afzal in the 43rd over.

The Oswestry tail wagged until the total had passed the safety of 250 runs.

In reply Stour's highest partnership of 45 was between Alex Bingham and new overseas recruit Tarryck Gabriel batting at number 4. Gabriel was bowled by Charlie Morris for a sprightly 28 off 17 deliveries. The 18th over proved to be the match winner for the Shropshire lads when Morris turned the match on its head with the wickets of Gabriel and Josh Banks LBW off the first delivery. Opener Bingham was eventually out for 38 bowled by Mark Robinson in the 23rd over.

Oswestry managed to prevent Stour's middle order doing any significant damage. Fynn's three wickets towards the end of the Stour halted the chance of an unlikely victory as injured Jivan Patel remained not out on 28.

Good Evans! Reanne lifts trophy

Reanne Evans receives her trophy from association life member Vic Bartlam, aged 87

DUDLEY'S Reanne Evans and Darryn Walker produced a fitting finale to the Staffordshire and West Midlands Billiards and Snooker League season.

The duo served up some high quality snooker that included three century breaks in the Individual Championship at Wednesfield Conservative Club.

Reigning women's world champion Evans (Sedgley Ex-Service) came out on top with a superb 102 clearance in the ninth and deciding frame to lift the title for a second time. Two other individual winners were also crowned. Shifnal team-mates Mick Brezwyn and Paul Lloyd contested the Individual Plate final at Wolverhampton Electric Club, with the latter taking home the prize.

The Individual Handicap final at Woodfield Social saw Rob Wharne (Stafford Institute) defeat John Fallows (Shifnal), who received 21 start per frame.

The Stourbridge & District Snooker League Second Division Singles Championship, at Stourbridge Institute saw Ed Davies of Stourbridge Old Edwardians defeat Kingswinford Cons' Sam Porter 3-2. Davies took the first frame but 21-year-old Porter countered impressively to take a 2-1 lead.

Davies fought his way back to level at 2-2 and achieved perfect position on the black to clinch the championship for the Derek Flavell Memorial Shield.

Perfection in chess club season

THE chess season is now drawing to a close and this week Stourbridge Chess Club played their final match of the 2015/2016 season – winning division 2 with a 100 per cent record.

They faced Droitwich in division 2 of the Worcester and District League and notched up another victory 3½-½ with wins for Sam Bradley, Julie Wilson and Jeremy Humphries and a draw from Colin Woodall.

Stourbridge members Keith and Nick Arkell and Jeremy Fallowfield recently played in the open section of the Nottingham congress while Nick's son Daniel played in the minor section. Keith won the open with a perfect five out of five score while Nick and Jeremy came equal second with four other players on 3.5 out of five. All three Stourbridge players have now qualified to play in the British championship. Nick also won the prize for the best player graded under 185. Junior Daniel Arkell had a 50 per cent (2½) score in the minor.

Summer

The chess club's annual dinner will be held on June 1.

The club's program of summer activities kicks off with the summer tournament on June 15. It is a five round tournament using the Swiss pairing system. This means that everyone has the opportunity to play in all five rounds and will be paired against an opponent with the same score.

The second round of the tournament will be held on June 29 with the remaining rounds taking place once a fortnight. This is a great opportunity for any prospective members to come along and join in. Those interested in playing at Stourbridge Chess Club should contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 for more information or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk.

Tennis taster at the Wollaston club

WOLLASTON Tennis Club will show off its facilities this weekend as part of the Great British Tennis Weekend.

The club in Prestwood Drive will open its doors on Saturday afternoon with activities taking place between 2pm and 5pm. The club, which invested £130,000 in four new courts and floodlights in 2014, will be inviting people of all ages along for free tennis experience. Racquets and tennis balls will be provided.

Chairman John Cutler said: "This is a national initiative by the Lawn Tennis Association to give people a chance to try out local facilities. Timing is ideal for us with Wimbledon not far away."

★★★

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